



ALBERT LEA SENIOR CENTER  
ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 12:00pm  
Senior Center

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Doran Gray, Marlys Steele, Linda Stenseth, Alice Hanson, and Michelle Jardine

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sharon Gardner and Rosemary Bloomquist.

**YMCA STAFF ABSENT:** Senior Director of Programs Brandy Schewe and Senior Center Program Coordinator Sarah Chavarria

**CITY STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** Community Engagement and Enrichment Director Cathy Malakowsky, and Administrative Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Karla Tukua

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Board Chair Hanson called the meeting to order at 12:00pm

**ADOPT AGENDA:**

Gray made motion to adopt the agenda for today's meeting and Jardine seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of motion. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Stenseth made motion to approve the minutes for the July 08, 2026 meeting and Jardine seconded the motion. All board members present voted in favor of motion. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Update on remodeling proposal/move to Jim and Dude's location – Cathy Malakowsky**

Malakowsky brought the final update of costs for the Senior Center which showed that Jim and Dudes was able to reduce their cost even more by re-using doors at the location, bringing the total to \$475,000. The cost now with the 10% contingency and architecture fees is, \$538,700 and adding in the financing interest, it will take the cost to \$684,000.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Fund-raising goal for move to Jim and Dude's – Cathy Malakowsky**

- Malakowsky presented the financing and fundraising aspects of this project, which are attached to these minutes. She answered board members questions as she covered her information.
- Malakowsky went through each of the grant programs with the senior board members, explaining the process and what can be applied for. She gave different examples of fundraising ideas and grants to apply for, looking at possibly raising \$35,000 in naming rights donations and the possibility of qualifying for \$56,000 in grants towards the Senior

Center new location for this year. There will be more grant opportunities for next year as well and some that can be applied for annually.

- She spoke about doing an annual fundraiser to raise funds to help with the cost of the new location. Focusing on one signature event each year, ideas are listed on the attached document.

Malakowsky opened it up to the board members for their ideas.

- Hanson spoke about doing a meal fundraiser at Mom's Bread Company, and gave examples of what could be done, with the cost being \$100 a ticket and having a silent auction as well as asking for sponsors for various giveaways.
- Hanson recommended having this fundraiser before people go south for the winter, possibly by the end of September or early October.
- Suggested a pancake breakfast with the Moose possibly sponsoring.
- Members continued to discuss different options for fundraising.
- Gray mentioned his church does a Potato Bar fundraiser and it does the best with the amount of people that attend and popularity. It's the most requested item their church does for fundraisers.
  - Venues for a pancake breakfast or potato bar could be the Eagles Club and/or Moose Lodge
  - Malakowsky suggested the board members form a sub-committee to plan out different events.
  - Jardine will follow up with the clubs on using their space for an event and Hanson will check with the Art Center to get their ideas and what they've done to raise funds.
  - Gray mentioned checking with Thrivent for gift card donations to be used towards food for these events.
  - Malakowsky said that Kwik Trip gives away a lot to fundraisers, they are another resource to use.
  - Members continued to discuss different ideas.

Malakowsky stated she will bring the attached proposal to Council on August 24<sup>th</sup>, showing the Senior Center plans in place for fundraising for the new center for their approval. She will have a final meeting with Jim & Dudes today to see if there were more cuts that they were able to make.

- Malakowsky asked the board members present what they thought about the sponsorship idea, to which they thought it was a great idea and suggested raising the amount for the major sponsorship. Board members continued to discuss different options
- Malakowsky suggested a Special meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup>, to bring all their ideas on fundraising and come up with a plan. She said she will invite the Mayor to attend this meeting. Decision was made to start the meeting at 11:30am on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Malakowsky asked members to review the proposal, make notes on it and bring their ideas to the meeting on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **Photo of Senior Center Board for the city website – Teresa Kauffman**
  - Teresa Kaufmann the City's Communications Coordinator and Photographer was present to take pictures of board members that were present at the meeting. The picture will be put on the City's website under the Senior Center Advisory Board.

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES UPDATE

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays of the month craft activities. For September it will be Rock Painting and Hanson showed pictures of examples of rocks that were painted.
- Monthly Birthday party
- Memory Care Café, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.
- Coffee with a Cop, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month.
- Tech Thursday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- End of summer BBQ is Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 11am.
- Friday Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> Lake Minnetonka luncheon cruise.
- Jackpot Junction Casino Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>
- 80's Brunch, Friday October 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Mayowood Mansion Christmas Tour on November 5<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Party on December 11<sup>th</sup>

## UPDATES/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS - None

## BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

- Jardine mentioned that she and her family will be gone from after Thanksgiving until April. She will work on what she can until they leave for the winter.
- Stenseth asked about the re-naming of the Senior Center, and how should that be done. Jardine said there should be an option to do a vote on Facebook. Hanson mentioned she likes "Thrive at Broadway" the best. Malakowsky asked them to bring more ideas to the special meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Stenseth followed up on previous request of having Mayo come to the Senior Center to help residents with their portal, Malakowsky said she'd follow up on this.
- Stenseth asked if the Senior Center was represented at the Fair to which Malakowsky said that Age-Friendly Freeborn County was there and the Senior Center was represented on Senior Citizen Day.

## ADJOURNMENT – 12:49pm

Gray made motion for adjournment and Steele seconded the motion. All members presented voted in favor of said motion. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting will be held at 12:00pm on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. There will be a special meeting scheduled on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am at the Senior Center.

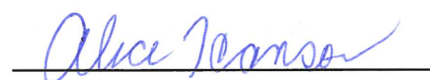
Respectfully submitted,



Karla Tukua

Senior Center Board Secretary

Approved:



Alice Hanson

Senior Center Board Chair

## **Albert Lea Senior Center Fundraising Ideas**



**Date:** Aug. 12, 2026

**To:** Senior Center Board

**From:** Cathy Malakowsky, engagement/enrichment director

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**Jim and Dude's location cost of construction and financing:**

**\$538,700** in construction

**\$684,000** with financing

- 3.23% interest (City's last bond rate)
  - \$3,800/month 15 years = \$684,000
- 

**\$438,700** to finance if raised \$100,000 in 2026

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Lower amount by \$20,000 a year for 15 years = \$300,000

Would cover the finance expense plus some of the principal

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**Goal: Raise \$35,000 in sponsorships**

**"Sponsor a Piece of the Center" campaign**

- Recognize donors on a permanent "Founders Wall" inside the remodeled center
  - \$50: Friend of the Senior Center
  - \$100: Sponsor a Chair
  - \$250: Sponsor a Table
  - \$500: Sponsor a Billiards Table
  - \$1,000: Sponsor a Program Room
  - \$5,000: Major Community Partner

**Alternative Sponsor Program: Naming Rights**

- Recognize donors with plaque on each room
  - Large gathering room: \$5,000
  - Kitchen: \$5,000
  - Lobby: \$5,000
  - Multipurpose room: \$3,000
  - Billiards room: \$3,000
  - Bathrooms: \$3,000 each

| <b>2026: \$56,500 in grants</b>          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                            |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Grant Program</b>                     | <b>Deadline</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Amount to apply for</b> |
| Hanson Family Foundation                 | Sept. 1 or Dec. 1<br><a href="#">Microsoft Word - Application.docx (hansonfoundation.org)</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | \$10,000                   |
| Arcadian Bank                            | Can apply at any time<br><a href="http://www.arcadian.bank/resources/community-involvement/">www.arcadian.bank/resources/community-involvement/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$500                      |
| Astrup Family Foundation                 | Can apply at any time<br><br>Emphasize if the center will have dementia programming, Alzheimer's support, wellness/health programs because they line up particularly well with the foundation's stated healthcare interests. The foundation specifically identifies dementia, epilepsy and mental illness among its healthcare priorities.<br><a href="https://astrupfamilyfoundation.org/donation-request/">https://astrupfamilyfoundation.org/donation-request/</a> | \$10,000                   |
| Freeborn-Mower Electrical Cooperative    | Sept. 15 or Dec. 15<br><a href="http://www.fmec.coop/operation-round">www.fmec.coop/operation-round</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | \$1,000                    |
| Minnesota Energy Resources               | Oct. 31<br><a href="https://www.wecenergygroup.com/community/minnesota-energy-resources-charitable-giving.htm">https://www.wecenergygroup.com/community/minnesota-energy-resources-charitable-giving.htm</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | \$5,000                    |
| Worth County Development Authority       | Sept. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://wcdasite.com/community-impact/general-grants/">https://wcdasite.com/community-impact/general-grants/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://wcdasite.com/apply-now/general-grants/">https://wcdasite.com/apply-now/general-grants/</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                          | \$10,000                   |
| Albert Lera B. Cuppage Foundation        | Email Don Savelkoul                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$5,000                    |
| Cargill                                  | Apply at any time? Check with Kate or Tonya<br><a href="http://www.cargill.com/about/community/local-communities">www.cargill.com/about/community/local-communities</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | \$5,000                    |
| Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation | Opens Sept. 8<br><a href="https://smifoundation.org/grants/for-grant-seekers/">https://smifoundation.org/grants/for-grant-seekers/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | \$10,000                   |

| <b>2027: \$31,000 in grants</b>        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                             |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Age-Friendly Minnesota                 | Spring 2027<br><a href="https://mn.gov/dhs/age-friendly-mn/">https://mn.gov/dhs/age-friendly-mn/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$10,000                    |
| United Way of Freeborn County          | April 2027<br><a href="http://www.unitedwayfc.org/communityimpactgrant">www.unitedwayfc.org/communityimpactgrant</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$3,000                     |
| Freeborn County Communities Foundation | May 2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact LeeAnn Dulitz at <a href="mailto:fcommunityfoundation@gmail.com">fcommunityfoundation@gmail.com</a>.</li> <li>• This is for qualified non-profits that promote social, cultural, health, civic, educational and environmental well-being of Freeborn County.</li> </ul> Publishes in the Albert Lea Tribune when it's accepting applications | \$5,000                     |
| Kwik Trip                              | Aug. 1<br><a href="http://www.kwiktrip.com/community/donations">www.kwiktrip.com/community/donations</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | In-kind products or \$3,000 |
| POET                                   | Typically opens in spring,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | \$3,000                     |
| Blandin Foundation                     | <a href="https://blandinfoundation.org/programs/grants/">https://blandinfoundation.org/programs/grants/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | \$10,000                    |

## Fundraising Ideas for Members

**Goal: \$20,000 a year for 15 years (\$300,000)**

### Community Fundraising Event

- Hold 1 signature annual event
- Get businesses to sponsor the event, so most ticket revenue goes directly toward the project
- Ideas:
  - Benefit dinner with silent auction
  - Community BBQ
  - Pancake breakfast
  - Trivia night
  - Polka/dance night
  - Holiday craft fair: Sell quilts and other items made by members