



ALBERT LEA SENIOR CENTER
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 12:00pm
Senior Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Board Chair Dick Mucha, Rosemary Bloomquist, Doran Gray, Marlys Steele

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sharon Gardner, Stephanie Harmon, and Ex-Officio Rachel Christensen

YMCA STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Senior Director of Programs Brandy Schewe and Senior Center Program Coordinator Emelia Gaudian

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

Recreation Manager Bob Furland arrived at 12:10 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Brandy Schewe called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

ADOPT AGENDA:

Doran Gray made a motion to adopt the agenda for today's meeting and Dick Mucha seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 4-0, (Sharon Gardner and Stephanie Harmon were absent). Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Marlys Steele made the motion to approve the minutes for November 12, 2025 and Dick Mucha seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 4-0, (Sharon Gardner and Stephanie Harmon was absent). Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Review RFP for new location - Malakowsky and Schewe reviewed the RFP information and copies of the plans were available for board members to review.

Mucha stated he'd like to move to the Jim and Dudes location, while Gray said he liked the Northbridge Mall location. There was discussion regarding both locations noting the pros and cons of both areas. Malakowsky stated the biggest difference between Jim & Dudes and the Herberger's location is that Jim & Dudes is not requiring the City to pay the cost of the renovation up front, it would be added to our monthly lease. The Healthcare Coalition, former Herberger's location, is requiring the City to pay the renovation cost up front. In response to a

question in regard to rent, Malakowsky stated the Herberger's location is \$5,200, but they are willing to negotiate. The Jim & Dudes location is \$4,000, but if they pay for the renovation that will be added to the rent. Malakowsky said that once we had a motion and a second, the board could open it up for discussion. Bloomquist made a motion to accept the Jim & Dudes RFP and Mucha seconded the motion.

Senior Center Members spoke in regards to the different locations –

Alice Hanson spoke against the current location due to leaking roof, bathrooms have needed fixing, no handicapped entrance and the parking lot is not in good condition. Hanson stated she felt they would get new members with the Jim & Dudes location.

Elaine Mucha stated that she is concerned about mold in the ceiling at the current location, condition of the parking lot is bad and the entrance is not easy to open, especially if your hands are full. She would like to move to the Jim & Dudes location.

Ed Sharpsteen clarified that Jim and Dudes proposal said if there was any problem with the roof, they would fix it. Sharpsteen also stated from what he had read regarding the RFP's, Jim & Dudes cost was lower than the Herberger's location. Malakowsky clarified that the Herberger's quote was two separate quotes, not all three numbers together. The quote is either the \$285,000 or the \$155,000 plus the \$84,000, depending on which one the board would go with. Malakowsky also noted the cost would be higher than what was quoted due to having to add restrooms at the Herberger's location. There was continued discussion regarding the Jim and Dudes and Herberger's location, noting the pros and cons of both locations.

Linda Stenseth spoke in favor of the Jim & Dudes location over Herberger's due to Jim & Dudes location having more space for the Senior Center.

Mucha made motion to vote in favor of the Jim & Dudes location. With a show of hands all members present voted in favor of said motion, 4-0, Sharon Gardner and Stephanie Harmon were absent.

Malakowsky reiterated that the vote was for Jim & Dudes, 4-0. She will start planning out the details.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Furland shared that he's leaving the City of Albert Lea and will start as the Executive Director for the History Center of Freeborn County. His first day there will be January 7th. He expressed his appreciation for his years with the City. Senior Center members stated their appreciation to Bob and all he has done for the Senior Center.

Malakowsky informed Senior Center members present that there are 3 openings on the Senior Center Board. If anyone was interested in serving on the board, they could pick up an application from Gaudian.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Review Q3 Report – Schewe presented the board with the Q3 Activities worksheet. Schewe noted that each of the trips had enough members signed up to pay for the events. Events and Activities listing is attached to these minutes.

UPDATES/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Gaudian reviewed the Christmas program – there were 112 members present. The cost of the party was paid for by four businesses that sponsored a table. They were Thornecrest, Oak Park Place Cargill and St. Johns. Gaudian spoke about Tech Tuesday that has been started again, thanks to Deputy Chief Bart Berven for coordinating this. AT&T is the business that provides assistance at Tech Tuesday.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS - None

ADJOURNMENT – Schewe adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm

Respectfully submitted,



Karla Tukua
Senior Center Board Secretary

Approved:



Senior Center Board Chair