



ALBERT LEA SENIOR CENTER
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 12:00pm
Senior Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doran Gray, Sharon Gardner, Marlys Steele, Rosemary Bloomquist, Linda Stenseth, Alice Hanson, and Michelle Jardine

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, Administrative Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Karla Tukua and Ex-Officio Rachel Christensen.

ADDITIONAL STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Rich Murray

CALL TO ORDER:

Brandy Schewe called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Introductions were made for new board members.

Mayor Murray spoke to the board and thanked them for their service on the board. He said he appreciates everything they and the board does for the Seniors in our community. He asked board members to let him know if they would like him to attend any of their events, his e-mail and phone number is listed on the city website.

ADOPT AGENDA:

Gray made motion to adopt the agenda for today's meeting and Gardner seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 7-0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Steele made motion to adopt the minutes of the December 17, 2025 meeting and Gardner seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 7-0. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Update on Facility Location 2027 - Malakowsky gave an update on the Jim and Dudes location, she gave an overview of some of the next steps in the process. Malakowsky is working to get an estimate for a better idea of the costs. She has been in contact with the original firm that designed Health Reach, Wold Architects. Malakowsky has spoken to them and they've requested the original RFP's and preliminary plans for the location. Wold Architects asked the board to decide if they'd like a separate entrance. If the Senior Center

would still like to do rentals, they would need a separate entrance. Also, will need to decide if the offices should be located by the front entrance, how rooms will be used and when activities will be scheduled. Some points the architect made is to decide if they want the offices up front by the door and where should the kitchen be located. Malakowsky said the firm will get back with her on the cost of the new plans. There was discussion on financing options for this project. Christensen spoke about budget constraints and possibility of the Senior Center members and members of our business community working together on fund raising opportunities to support the building of the new facility. Mayor Murray stated he'd help with the fundraising.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of new board members, Alice Hanson, Michelle Jardine & Linda Stenseth. Schewe asked that they introduce themselves and give their reason for wanting to join the board.

- Alice Hanson said that she uses the center and appreciates what the center offers. She'd like to help with the new facility and help get new members to join.
- Michelle Jardine explained that her husband is retiring this year and she will in a few years. She'd like to get more members involved closer to her age, adding that the senior center has a lot of programs they offer that not everyone knows about. She'd like to build on these programs. Jardine said she has background in real estate, retirement and tech knowledge that she could share as well.
- Linda Stenseth stated she was unfamiliar with the Senior Center but wanted to play Bingo and this started her involvement with the Center. She said the members were all welcoming and she became more involved. She became interested in the options for the new facility and would like to help bring more people into the center.

New Chair and Vice Chair - Brandy explained the process of appointing a new chair and vice chair. After covering the process, Hanson nominated Jardine, but due to other obligations she declined. Jardine nominated Hanson as new Chair and Stenseth seconded said motion. On member vote, all members voted in favor of said motion, 7-0. Motion carried.

For Vice Chair Gaudian suggested Stenseth and Gardner made motion to appoint Stenseth as Vice Chair, Steele seconded this motion. On member vote all members voted in favor of said motion, 7-0. Motion carried.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Annual Report was presented by Schewe – Schewe presented the Senior Center's annual report for 2025. Copies of the report were provided to the Senior Center Board members, showing the annual usage, trips and events that were planned in 2025. Schewe explained what the different numbers were for the new board members as she went through the report.

- Some of the key points are the member check-ins. Noting that member check ins were down for November and December due to some weather issues and holidays.

- Schewe covered the trips for the past year, noting that no trips were cancelled. All trips were full and covered the cost by the people who attended.
- She recognized the Christmas Party as having a record number of attendees, 114 people. She encouraged everyone to invite others to these events.
- Schewe continued through the report for board members and explained how they share with the public what they do weekly and monthly at the Senior Center. This is included on the Annual Report attached to these minutes.
- She added that there is 1 recurring rental weekly with TOPS, plus 23 single rentals. The rental revenue was \$3490., which off-set the programming staffing costs for the year.

Schewe opened it up for questions, to which Hanson said she'd like to find a way to make sure members are checking in. Schewe added that this has gotten better, but they can do reminders more often and make announcements. Christensen explained the importance of checking in because this is how the Senior Center gets their funding.

UPDATES/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Guadian went through upcoming February events, noting the King and Queen will be crowned at Bingo today.

- On Friday the 13th there will be a Valentine's day event.
- Oak Park place will have Bingo w/treats.
- Memory Care will come in, Drivers defense and Art with Emilia

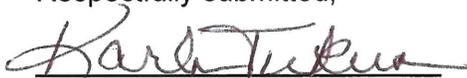
Upcoming March events –

- In March there will be a casino trip and on March 26th there will be a Health Expo, that will be at the YMCA this year instead of the Senior Center. Schewe explained they've increased the size of the Health Expo and to accommodate the space needed, they will have it in the gymnasium at the Y. Noting the information is in the Senior Center newsletter.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS - None

ADJOURNMENT – 12:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Karla Tukua

Senior Center Board Secretary

Approved:



Alice Hanson

Senior Center Board Chair

Albert Lea Senior Center 2025 Annual Report

CENTER USAGE

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Check Ins	745	766	750	857	824	694	868	823	880	944	648	597
Individual Visitors	165	149	150	165	162	182	167	172	184	174	140	168
Members	263	257	264	267	258	258	283	287	287	264	264	262

TRIPS & EVENTS



Trip/Event	# of Attendees
On The Road Again	43
The Singing Cowgirl	28
Mystic Lake Casino Trip	26
37 Postcards Dinner Theatre	28
Wild Rose Casino Trip	22
Summer Kickoff BBQ	72
Stillwater Boat Trip	34
Four Daughters Winery Trip	26
Grease at Chanhassen	32
End of Summer BBQ	63
A Fall Day to Remember Orchard Trip	48
Singing Cowgirl	27
80's Brunch	70
Treasure Island Christmas Show	44
Christmas Party	114
A Christmas Carol	23



Albert Lea Senior Center 2025 Annual Report

WHERE DID WE SHARE?



100 Facebook Posts



Weekly Radio Visits on Kate Radio



3 Highlights submitted to the Albert Lea Tribune on Trips/Events



3 Newsletters mailed to Freeborn County Seniors and distributed in our community.



Attended Age Friendly events to share about our offerings and see where we can serve the community.



Flyers for each of our trips and in house special events were hung at area housing facilities, banks, grocery stores and post offices.

WEEKLY STAPLES

Building Bones

Bingo

SAIL/Aerobics

Quilting

500

Pfeffer

Bridge

Knitting

Chair Tai Chi

Mahjong

MONTHLY FUN

Tech Tuesday

Coffee with a Cop

Coffee with a

Firefighter/EMT

Birthday Parties

Defensive Driving

Memory Cafe

Art with Emelia

RENTALS

1 RECURRING WEEKLY RENTAL WITH TOPS

23 SINGLE EVENT RENTALS

Net rental revenue totaling \$3,490 helped offset program staffing costs