



ALBERT LEA SENIOR CENTER  
ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 08, 2026 12:00pm  
Senior Center

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Doran Gray, Sharon Gardner, Marlys Steele, Rosemary Bloomquist, Linda Stenseth, Alice Hanson, Michelle Jardine and Ex-Officio Rachel Christensen

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**YMCA STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** Senior Center Program Coordinator Sarah Chavarria

**YMCA STAFF ABSENT:** Senior Director of Programs Brandy Schewe

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Hanson called the meeting to order at 12:00pm

**ADOPT AGENDA:**

Gray made motion to adopt 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 approve minutes for March 11, 2026 and Stenseth seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of said motion 7-0. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Update on facility location 2027 – Cathy**

Malakowsky informed board members that the design contract came in below expectations at \$14,000. Malakowsky will present this information to Council on Monday, due to this cost not being in the City's 2026 Budget or in the Capital Improvement Plan. At the time the budget was being set, the Senior Center hadn't determined yet if they would be moving.

Malakowsky stated she will review with council the assessment process that the Senior Center went through to recommend the move of the Senior Center to the new location. She covered with the board members the different phases of that assessment. Stating once she reviews this with council, she will ask them to approve the design proposal. Malakowsky will also let them know there will be a bigger request coming for the construction cost. Malakowsky explained the different fundraising options she has reviewed and adding they can still reach out to AARP with

Age-Friendly Freeborn County and there's still other fundraising opportunities they can still look at.

### **B. Senior Center move on April 13 City Council agenda**

Malakowsky said she will bring the above item to Council on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. She will give a presentation to council regarding the RFP and will cover the proposals received and reasons why the Senior Board voted in favor of the Jim and Dudes location. She encouraged the Senior Center board members to attend the council meeting and provided them a copy of the City Council representatives

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

### **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

- Last Month attended Treasure Casino. 28 people registered and 26 ended up going.
- Trip for this Month is at the Sidekick Theatre on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with 53 people registered.
- Newsletter is completed and should go out next week.

Stenseth recognized Tammy from the YMCA for bringing the numbers up for the trip. Enchavarria explained that Tammy has a listing from previous trips and called those that had attended in the past to see if they'd be interested in attending.

**UPDATES/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS** - None

### **BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

#### Linda Stenseth

- Recognized Audrey for donating large print bingo cards. She thought there should be a thank you sent from the Senior Center board members.
- She commented on the Wellness Expo, there were quite a number of people that attended.
- Jardine said she had enjoyed it too, very good crowd.
  - Enchavarria said for next year they will look at having people park at the Senior Center and bus them over to the Y, for easier access.
- Stenseth also noted that Doran brought up putting out a suggestion box for ideas people wanted to see at the new center. This was from the last meeting and there's no box up yet.
- Stenseth noted ideas to help drive up Senior Center members scanning in when they come to the center.

#### Alice Hanson

- Alice has spoken with the Art Center and got names of 2 individuals that could do the Arts/Craft classes – Bonnie Wedge and Diane Westland, explaining that Diane also does art projects at Thornecrest.

- Hanson suggested the two ladies could split up the craft classes. Hanson will follow up with them to see if they would be interested.
  - Enchavarria explained Emelia has the names of the senior center members that have attended the craft classes before. Suggestion of reaching out to them once they start the classes back up.

Michelle Jardine

- Has reached out to co-workers and friends for suggestions on increasing senior center memberships. What she's heard back is that they'd like extended hours due to still working and the senior center is not open when they would be available to come.
- She had additional ideas for increasing membership with addition programs and hours.
  - Enchavarria said this has been discussed and they may look at extending 1 night a week. Leave the pool room open and having an activity as well.
  - Enchavarria also mentioned having a trip on a Saturday.
  - Hanson said that maybe when the new facility opens this could be added and look to see if there could be volunteers to manage the center.
- Jardine also added that with the new center, maybe if they had key fobs, they could utilize that to enter the center and possibly only allow access to certain rooms.

Rosemary Bloomquist

- She suggested they increase the cost of the bingo cards. Stating at times they run out of money when they pay the winners.
- She suggested going from .15 cents to .20 cents a card. On discussion between board members on how this should work, the board members agreed to implement on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. This will allow for them to make 3 announcements before the change.

Gray made motion to accept this change and Jardine seconded the motion. On voice vote all members voted in favor of said motion, 7-0. Motion passed.

Christensen thanked the Senior Center Board on the work they are doing, the suggestions they are making to increase participation in the Senior Center. She recognized their suggestions for fundraising opportunities for the new senior center and trying to keep the cost to tax-payers minimal.

**ADJOURNMENT – 12:34 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,



Karla Tukua  
Senior Center Board Secretary

Approved:



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Alice Hanson  
Senior Center Board Chair