



ALBERT LEA SENIOR CENTER
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 12:00pm
Senior Center

Members Present: Doran Gray, Sharon Gardner, Stephanie Harmon and Marlys Steele. Ex-Officio Rachel Christensen

Absent: Dick Mucha and Frank Trotter

YMCA Staff in Attendance: Senior Director of Programs Brandy Schewe, Senior Center Program Coordinator Emelia Gaudian

City Staff in Attendance: Community Engagement and Enrichment Director Cathy Malakowsky, Recreation Manager Bob Furland, Administrative Assistant Karla Tukua

Others in Attendance: Rosemary Bloomquist, potential new board member

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Brandy Schewe at 12:03pm

Event, Activities & Trip Report – Emelia Gaudian

- Gaudian gave an overview of events and activities, which included a visit with the City of Albert Lea, celebration of birthdays and attending the memory café event.
- Memory Café is now the 1st and 3rd Monday of the Month.
- The Wild Rose casino trip will be Thursday, May 22nd and they have a full bus.
- The deadline to sign up to attend the Senior BBQ Dinner is May 23rd. BBQ dinner will be Monday, June 2, 2025

Membership Report – Brandy Schewe

Schewe stated that the Senior Center membership is holding steady at 267 members. Also adding that 167 members checked in throughout the week.

Senior Center Let's Make it Better Update – Cathy Malakowsky

- Malakowsky reported the current Senior Center location was walked from front to back, including all entrances and parking lot areas. The findings were that the current location is not fully ADA accessible and areas were noted that needed to be fixed. Automatic doors to the Skyline Plaza that did not work and potholes in the parking lot.
- Malakowsky sent an example Request for Proposal around for board members to review, if the City would choose to look for a new location.

- Motion made by Gray to accept the RFP, seconded by Steele, with all voting in favor. Dick Mucha and Frank Trotter were absent.
- Malakowsky discussed a proposed trip to other Cities to tour their Senior Centers, for the Board to look at what other centers have to offer and to get ideas of what they would like in a new location. The Senior Centers mentioned were Rochester, Austin and Owatonna. Guadian brought up the Senior Center in Medford, due to its outside design with a front porch and rocking chairs.
- Harmon asked what the rent is for the current location, Schewe said it is \$4,000 a month. Gaudian asked about the cost of other locations and making sure that's taken into account for whatever location is chosen.
- Dates listed for the trip were May 29th and June 6th, with Schewe saying she'd look at possible additional dates, so more could attend.

For Board Review: Senior Center Board Members and Terms

- Schewe asked to have Frank Trotter's term be vacated due to not attending any meetings in 2025 to date. She would like to have Rosemary Bloomquist appointed to finish out Trotter's term. Malakowsky gave an explanation of how this process works. Tukua stated she'd let Mayor Murray know of this request, send him Bloomquist's application and add it to the next City Council agenda if the Mayor approved.

Information Item for Board: Staff will update bylaws and bring to the Board for input and approval later this year.

- There was discussion in regards to updating the Albert Lea Senior Center bylaws, due to the fact they are no longer a 501c3 organization. Schewe let the board know that there had not been any updates to the bylaws for 20 years. Staff will bring the updated bylaws to the board for their input, review and approval.

For Board Review: Outline of RFP for Senior Center Location

- This was also discussed during the Senior Center evaluation update. Malakowsky expanded on some of the areas that need to be fixed to be ADA compliant. Specifically, the automatic door button that does not work and the door entrance, where the lip is raised, causing a tripping hazard. Additionally, areas in the parking lot where the potholes are a hazard.

New Business

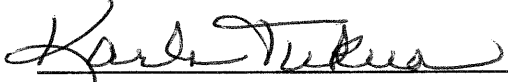
- Malakowsky passed around a sample Senior Center postcard, done by Communications Coordinator Teresa Kauffman, that showed the different programs and activities the Senior Center offers. This postcard would be used for marketing the Senior Center and for senior center members to take and pass on to friends to invite them to the center.
- Emelia pointed out some activities listed that were no longer offered. They will update the schedule and Kauffman will make the changes.
- Harmon asked about the last meeting, someone came and spoke about SNAP. She wanted to know who and where they were from. Schewe and Malakowsky said it was

April Schuur with Senior Resources with offices at St. John's at 901 Luther Place here in Albert Lea.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Sharon Gardner and seconded by Stephanie Harmon. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

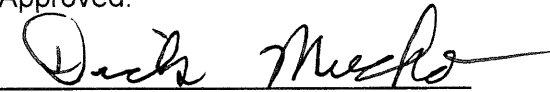
Respectfully submitted,



Karla Tukua

Senior Center Advisory Board Secretary

Approved:



Dick Mucha

Senior Center Advisory Board Chair