

MINUTES

Warrenton City Commission
&
Community Center Advisory Board
Joint Work Session – January 17, 2019
4:30 p.m.
Warrenton Community Center
170 SW 3rd Street
Warrenton, OR 97146

Mayor Balensifer called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Community Center Board Members Present: Frank Becker, Carol Snell, Penny Morris, Chair Debbie Little, and Jerry O’Neill

City Commissioners Present: Mayor Henry Balensifer, Pam Ackley, Rick Newton, and Tom Dyer

Excused: Mark Baldwin

Staff Present: City Manager Linda Engbretson, Finance Officer April Clark, and City Recorder Dawne Shaw

Mayor Henry Balensifer opened up the meeting stating that the City Commission and the Board are gathered to reach a common goal, to work in harmony as a City. He requested input from the Board on what their goals are for the year. Board member Frank Becker stated his goal is to make sure the community center is self-supporting, and to provide the center for the community. Commissioner Rick Newton commented that the desire to be self-supporting is good; however, supporting the community is just as important. Board member Jerry O’Neill stated that developing goals is great, and would like to see the community center used more. Financial Director April Clark clarified the board’s objective and noted that financial stability is part of that goal. Mayor Balensifer commented that the community center is a community asset that provides a basis for traditions that become institutions. He noted the facility is getting to be too small for usage. He stated one of the City Commission’s 2018 goals was livability, and he believes this goal will continue in 2019. In addition, he encouraged the Board to continue what they’re doing and to keep going.

Mayor Balensifer asked Mr. O’Neill for an update on the work done so far by the Senior Citizens Inc. and the task force. Mr. O’Neill stated Senior Citizens, Inc. work with Meals on Wheels to provide two meals, two days a week. He stated the seniors’ board has asked him to establish a task force to explore other activities that would involve seniors not only for their entertainment, but to engage them in the growth and participation in the community.

They are looking at partnering with Encore and other organizations, and even pilot some of their own additions to see that the seniors continue to grow in their own activities, and support the community center. They hope to have a pilot project available for the Board to review within a year. Mr. Becker suggested the seniors expand the days they already have. Mr. O'Neill discussed the Senior Citizens Inc.'s desire to assume responsibility for the center, always with the intent that it is a community center. Commissioner Tom Dyer made suggestions for more events to let people be more aware of what the seniors are doing, and to also bring generations together.

Commissioner Newton asked for clarification on the maintenance that needs to be done. Financial Director April Clark cited the main room needs painting; repairs are needed in the kitchen; need new doors; and new chairs.

Commissioner Newton suggested a Bingo night once a month to bring people together and bring more money in. Discussion ensued. It was noted the City cannot be involved in gaming; however it was suggested that Senior Citizens Inc. could; they could apply for a license as a non-profit entity.

Mr. O'Neill further discussed the building expansion. He believes that a ground swell of support and funds are needed to support this. Discussion continued. Commissioner Pam Ackley suggested building a courtyard and selling bricks to raise money. Further discussion continued on the possibility of Senior Citizens Inc. taking over ownership of the facility.

2019 goals were discussed. Community Center Board Chair Debbie Little mentioned the successes of the Breakfast with Santa, and the Easter Bunny, and the Thankful Hearts community Thanksgiving dinner. Discussion on volunteers ensued. Commissioner Newton suggested placing a sign above the exits stating "volunteers needed" with a phone number. Mayor Balensifer noted that when it comes to volunteers, it does not have to be an age issue, it just has to do with availability, willingness and a heart for it. He suggested using the Coast Guard or Tongue Point for building maintenance.

Commissioner Ackley discussed Walmart as a resource for grants, noting that Kim Smith has been great to work with. Ms. Clark stated Columbia Bank has given donations in the past. It was suggested that Senior Citizens Inc. approach Walmart for a grant. Ms. Clark reviewed the money raised over the past few years for the Easter and Christmas breakfasts; noting the 2018 Christmas breakfast raised \$3,138.65.

Discussion continued on the boards' goals for 2019. Ms. Little stated she would like to be more visible in the community, be easily accessible, and to have better advertising and more events. Commissioner Newton suggested a post in the Columbia Press to increase visibility and volunteers. Mayor Balensifer noted other community boards also need volunteers, and suggested having an annual Community Volunteer Fair.

Mr. Becker stated his goal is to increase revenue, and suggested taking flyers/brochures to new people for fund raising. Commissioner Ackley suggested sending information in welcome

Warrenton City Commission/Community Center Advisory Board

Joint Work Session – January 17, 2019

Page | 2

packets to new home owners. Commissioner Newton suggested handing out packets when they sign up for water service.


Discussion continued on volunteers and events. Event suggestions included an annual croquet tournament; a Christmas bazaar/market; Saturday markets; wine & paint events; a Turkey Bowl with raffles and auctions; movie night with concessions; and a chili cook-off. Mr. O'Neill stated he anticipates the task force and the board for the senior's to propose a fund raising event that will involve seniors and other generations; and he anticipates they will generate more activity and fund raising. He also suggested having a float during the 4th of July parade. Brief discussion continued.

Commissioner Newton thanked all those who participated in the Santa's breakfast, noting his grandson really enjoyed it. Commissioner Dyer agreed that it's good to experiment and to encourage people. Mr. O'Neill commended the Commission for that spirit of experimentation, visioning, and the wonderful openness to development and growth.

Mayor Balensifer summarized the board's 2019 goals; and suggested they look at the inventory of existing events in the North County and figure out how to make a differentiated product. He also stated there will be Chair training in March or April. He noted the board minutes are submitted to the Commission, and if the board has a recommendation, they should have a formal vote on it. Discussion ensued on recommended lead time for recommendations. Mr. O'Neill discussed the purpose and mission of the board. Mayor Balensifer, noted he plans to create a subcommittee to review and revise Bylaws of the different committees; brief discussion followed.

There being no further business, Mayor Henry Balensifer adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Approved



Mayor, Henry A. Balensifer III

Attest



Dawne Shaw, City Recorder

