



City of Lake Oswego 50-Plus Advisory Board

Thursday, April 9, 2009
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Members 2008-2009:

Gail Zimmerman, Chair
Thomas Brennan
Ruth Cohen
Nanci Cummings
Janine Dunphy
James Laughton
Meagan Lawler
Kathy Long Holland
Vacant

City Staff:

Kristin Johnson, City Council Liaison
Kim Gilmer, PR Director (Optional)
Ann Adrian, ACC Manager
Teresa O'Halloran, ACC Admin

Oswego Room
West End Building (WEB)
4101 Kruse Way

For Information: 503-675-6407

Approved Minutes

Guests:

- I. Roll Call
Present: Gail Zimmerman, Ruth Cohen, Nanci Cummings, Janine Dunphy, James Laughton, Kathy Long Holland, Meagan Lawler, Thomas Brennan, Ann Adrian, ACC Manager.
Excused: Teresa O'Halloran, ACC Admin and Councilor Johnson.
- II. Approval of Minutes 2/12/09 and 3/12/09
Motion made by Ms. Dunphy, Ms. Cummings seconded that motion.
Minutes approved with some clarifying changes
- III. Open Public Communications - There was no public participation.
- IV. Adult Community Center (ACC) Update
Ms. Adrian shared with the board the Elders in Action Elder Friendly Business Certification evaluation of the ACC. Through this evaluation the ACC was given a composite summary in three main areas: the website, customer service, and the facility. The website received the lowest score of 3.5 (out of 5) mainly due to the City's template and color choices, areas outside the control of the ACC. The facility received a 4.3 rating and a customer service score of 5. The evaluation was done by three trained volunteers who were over 50 years of age. Ms. Adrian and Ms. Gilmer would like to present these results to City Council and make it part of the permanent record. Ms. Adrian is hoping that other city facilities will be evaluated as well. Ms. Adrian is also hosting a breakfast for the Chamber of Commerce on April 24 in an effort to recruit businesses interest in becoming Elder Friendly Certified as well as learn more about the ACC.
- V. Update on Oakridge Park Hearing
Ms. Zimmerman said she was pleased that the project was finally approved. The Board discussed the results. Appeals are expected. Ms. Zimmerman suggested that she send a congratulatory letter to the mayor and council in support of their decision.
- VI. Old Business – Work Plan Updates

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Ms. Cummings reports that there are 19 jobs and 40 volunteers thus far for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors project scheduled for April 25. It has been well covered by the newspapers as well as city publications. Ms. Cummings reports that more volunteers are needed and she handed out volunteer forms to the board. Ms. Dunphy reported that the City Councilors were very supportive of this project at the last televised Council Meeting.

Housing – Vision/values

Mr. Brennan reported that he; Ms. Cohen and Ms. Lawler have come up with a draft plan on the values and vision the board sees regarding housing. Mr. Brennan received a referral from Ms. Dunphy about a gentleman who testified on the Oakridge project, an expert in this field. He is happy to help us with our goals under housing and working changes into the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Transportation

Ms. Zimmerman reported that her sub-committee was going to look at the shuttle program and alternative transportation means, but they haven't moved forward on this yet, but will. Ms. Zimmerman plans to come back to the next board meeting with more information on the shuttle program.

Mr. Laughton provided a hand out summary on his cross walk project. The overall message from the Police Department suggests there are more accidents in crosswalks versus when there is not a marked crosswalk. Mr. Laughton reported that there was minimal interest he could find in putting more crosswalks in place and, as a result, he recommended that this project not be pursued. Ms. Dunphy disagreed and noted that she has received a lot of positive support for such a project. However, Mr. Laughton reported that the neighborhood associations did not view the lack of crosswalks a problem. They report lack of sidewalks as more of an issue than crossing. Mr. Laughton suggested that we should not pursue the crosswalk program at this time as the lack of crosswalks does not appear to be perceived as a problem within the community.

Advocacy

Ms. Zimmerman and Ms. Dunphy reiterated the importance of a partnership with Elders in Action and the usefulness of the Elder Friendly Business certifications to businesses and seniors in the community.

Ms. Zimmerman then said she wanted to come back to follow up on the request by George Benson of Keep Lake Oswego Great, who attended the Board's March meeting, to think of ways to help Lake Oswego's seniors get through the current economic crisis.. The Board members discussed various ideas, including a senior resource fair or a workshop addressing ways people could cope in the current economic climate. Venue to be discussed. There was a lot of discussion on reserve mortgages, life insurance, etc...After much discussion, there was general consensus that a panel of experts presenting on these issues would be a possible way to go, thereby providing as objective help as possible. Ms. Zimmerman appointed a work group consisting of Ms. Long Holland and Ms. Lawler to work out the details of this approach. Ms. Zimmerman will follow up with Councilor Johnson to gather her opinion on such an education forum.

VII. New Business

- A. Next Meeting Date and Agenda: May 14, 2009, 8:30 a.m.
- B. Adjourn

References:

50+ Draft Meeting Minutes 3/12/09
Safe Street Crossing Project

Safe Street Crossings Project

On April 1st an e-mail was sent to 24 Neighborhood Association and letters to 2 others, outlining what I perceived to be a problem for seniors who use the major roads in Lake Oswego and find it difficult to cross them safely. I requested that they query their membership to determine if others felt that crossing streets, without markings, was dangerous and to provide examples in their area of these streets.

The following Neighborhood Associations responded immediately with their comments:

Linda Brown – Blue Heron Neighborhood Association

South Shore at Maple Circle and Alder Circle – West Bay at Canal Circle – all pose a problem for pedestrians using the walking paths in the area

Issac Quintero – Country Club/North Shore Neighborhood Association

5 Way Corner at A. Avenue , Country Club and Iron Mountain

Sally Moncrieff and Tim Mather – Palisades Neighborhood Association

Primary concerns are adding sidewalks on Fernwood Drive , Greentree Avenue and Tree Top Lane down to South Shore . There is a need to help people living at Avamere Retirement Community and neighborhood seniors to be able to walk down to South Shore to catch the bus.

Dawn D’Haeze – McVey- South Shore Neighborhood Association

Questioned the wisdom of the project as unnecessary. Forwarded e-mail to Lake Oswego Police Lt. Douglas Treat for his comments.

Lt. Douglas Treat advised against the project and pointed out cost and that “Marked crosswalks give pedestrians a false sense of security.” He further pointed out that putting in a crosswalk on McVey would result in pedestrians being struck and a huge number of complaints. He noted that at the marked traffic controlled crossing at South Shore and McVey there had been two pedestrians stuck in the last year with no pedestrians being struck on the unmarked section of McVey between State Street and South Shore .

Recommendation

Based on the minimal response, 3 out of 26, from the neighborhood associations and the remarks of Lt. Douglas Treat, I would recommend that we not pursue the need for marked street crossing in Lake Oswego .

Attachments

Copy of e-mail sent to Lake Oswego Neighborhood Associations

Copies of 4 Responses from Neighborhood Associations with maps of the streets

Remarks of Lt. Douglas Treat