

**Minnetonka Senior Advisory Board
Minutes
March 11, 2008
at Bloomington Creekside Community Center**

Present: Ruby Berg, Jerilynn Bergeson, Donna Bloom, Dave Carroll, Ann Dreier, Kay Fredensborg, Lois King, Richard Koenig, Bill Lurth, Marie Moilanen, Ron Timm, Steve Pieh, and Bev Montgomery.
Absent: Wanda Griep, Karen Mast, and Judi Mullin.

This group met at the Bloomington Creekside Community Center, which was a Bloomington Public School at one time. Director Sean O'Neill told us about the many programs and services available. Their newsletter, the Senior Splash, gets the news out about classes, services, entertainment, etc. There is close involvement with Hennepin County Human Services, AARP, and the Bloomington Arts Center. The city provides free space for non-profit groups who arrange programs which will benefit everyone. The Senior Advisory Council hears proposals for programs and gives an OK for a three month trial; if successful, the group may continue. The city sets the fee for space use. The Creekside Memorial Trust Fund benefits from bequests of citizens; funds are dispersed when a proposal for an activity is accepted by the SAC. The center has ten staff: the director, four program directors, a full time janitor and other support staff. No fund raising activities exist, except for the Trust Fund. All programs are monetarily self-sufficient; the staff cannot solicit funds or supplies, but the SAC can.

Volunteers of America provides lunches, \$3.25 for those 60+; the programs is not subsidized. Loaves and Fishes provides a free evening meal, for 200 – 250 persons, M – F. Two city buses provide transportation on a group route system, funded by a grant from the state. Meals on Wheels and Store to Door are volunteer run, with users paying for the meals or groceries. AARP provides tax preparation help and monthly meetings about housing.

An effort is made to involve various ethnic groups in the community; materials were translated into Russian, Spanish and Somalian languages. Mentors are part of the outreach to make all groups welcome.

A free exercise group is held two days a week, using a taped low impact regime. Otherwise, Park and Rec provides fitness programs and athletic opportunities.

Social services include assessing financial need or housing, but case management or social worker services are not offered. The Boutique sells items made by citizens 55+ or of any age with a disability; profits are divided between the city, the center and the maker. Pool room fees are \$10 per year, with fees used to refurbish the tables and pool cues. Workshop fees are \$1 a day for use. The library has an honor check-out system. No membership fee is required to join the center, but many groups donate ceramic supplies, yarn, or fabric. Items are created for charitable causes, like pillows or lap robes for the VA or Children's Hospital. Quest accepts old cell phones, which are then set to dial 911 only and are distributed to seniors for emergency purposes; 1:1 training is provided. Some mentoring exists when LD or EBD students come to play pool or board games. Students from BHS have made ethnic murals which hang in the hall.

On a tour of the center we saw the woodshop, boutique, pool room, rock shop and craft room, ceramic room, buyers' club, computer lab, and areas for cards, book clubs, meetings, etc. We enjoyed the VOA lunch with other seniors and had our meeting in the same room.

Board Meeting:

President Lois King called the meeting to order. Minutes of February 12th, were approved. Discussion revolved around the following upcoming events:

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day Lunch. 97 have signed up. 8 volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen at 10:30, 4 to help serve, and more to clean up. Ruby will get there at 9:00. Bill is baking the corned beef the day before.

April 14 – Appreciation Luncheon. Bill is planning his chicken and mushrooms entre. **All SAB members are expected to be there at 10:30 to help.**

May 5 – Cinco de Mayo Luncheon. Bill, with Jerilynn's help, will prepare a lunch centered around a taco bar, etc. 6 volunteers are needed to set up at 10:30 and to help serve and clean up.

May 8 – Back to the 50's Luncheon – Sloppy Joe's are planned. We need volunteers to be there at 10:30.

June 28 – Summer Fest. Need lots of help, put it on calendars.

August 8, 9, 10 – CUB Foods booth. Put it on your calendars.

Goals: Discuss at April Meeting.

Advisory Board member Judi Mullin is not continuing after May 31st. One possible replacement is being contacted.

Project Lunch Attendance Data Base – Lois has started a data base of those who attend the lunches and would like to find information from the regulars regarding issues around transportation, price, programs, etc. Donna, Ron, and Dave offered to call those persons to gather information.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m. and the Steve Express returned to Minnetonka.

Beverly Montgomery, Secretary