

MINUTES

DUNCANVILLE SENIOR ADVOCACY COMMISSION MEETING – OCTOBER 8, 2015
NORTHSIDE ROOM AT D.L. HOPKINS, JR. SENIOR CENTER

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark David
Dominique Dor
Robert Kruckeberg
Stella West

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Elaine Bell

GUESTS: Darrell Johnson and Diana D'Amari

STAFF: Rashidah Madyun, Staff Liaison and Dr. Ron Dotson, Council Liaison. Pam Willis, Recording Secretary was absent.

A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Chairperson David at 7:04p.m.

Item #1 – Public Discussion Period:

Two guests were present to speak during the public discussion period. Introductions were made. Ms. Diana D'Amari shared how she learned about the Senior Center. She and Mr. Johnson were invited to attend the CenterStage Production – "The Last Day at W.O.R.K." on September 24 by Senior Center members, Shirley and Carl Baldwin. In addition, she stated that Rashidah invited her and her spouse to visit the center. The invitation was a precursor for them to attend the Senior Advocacy Commission's public discussion. Comments shared during this period centered on ideas on how to keep member participants active and the concept of re-branding. Diana said the seniors might enjoy pruning and taking care of the garden on the Westside of the building. The discussion then turned to the issue of re-branding and what the so called "new and more active" seniors wish to be referred as. Diana stated, "The idea that I am called a senior does not sit well with me even though technically speaking, I am." The discussion after this returned to the subject of gardening. Dr. Dotson shared his role/membership on the Keep Duncanville Beautiful Board. He stated that Mr. Alvarez of the First United Church and member of the Keep Duncanville Beautiful Board wanted to start an herb or community garden. This supported Diana's earlier suggestion. With that said, all commission members shared their points of view on the subject matter. In conclusion, the group agreed that we should meet the members of the Beautification Board to further discuss the herbal/community garden idea.

Item #2 – Discussion and Consider Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve/accept minutes from the September 10, 2015 meeting was made by Chairperson David. A second was cast by commission member Kruckeberg. A vote was taken. Minutes were approved with 4 in favor and 0 against. One member, Elaine Bell, was absent for the vote.

Item #3 – Election of Vice-Chairperson:

Discussion began by Chairperson David asking the question, "who would like to be our Vice Chair?" No one volunteered. Chairperson David asked commission member Stella West if she would be the Vice Chair. She agreed. A motion to approve the nominee was made by Chairperson David. A

second was cast by commission member Dor. All were in favor 4 and 0 against. One member, Elaine Bell, was absent for the vote.

Item #4 – Discuss and Brainstorm Marketing Strategies to Increase Membership/Participation, Senior Center Awareness and Activities that Attract Active Adults and the Recently Retired:

Council Liaison Dr. Dotson told the Commission that he was a resident of the City of Duncanville for 20 years. He said we need change and growth overall to make the City work. We must bring new ideas and choose the right people to embrace change. Chairperson David said we are called "the City of Champions". Kids come to play basketball at the Fieldhouse. What can we do to bring in younger adults? What plans can we set in motion to bring more people? The big picture is, "The City of Champions". Commission member Dor said we need instructors at the Senior Center to teach line dance, and activities that increase physical fitness and to consider changing our hours to accommodate new growth. Discussion continued regarding marketing strategies and ways to attract active adults.

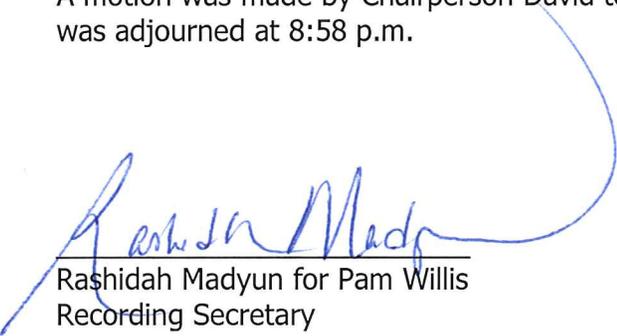
Items #5 – Discuss the Idea of Re-branding "What Do We Call Ourselves" Seniors, Older Adults, Mature Adults, Etc.:

Staff Liaison Madyun mentioned and agreed with guest Diana D'Amari' statement that even though she is a senior, she does not feel like one and neither does she wish to be referred to as such. The word "senior" connotes you are old. After all age is just a number. Commission members agreed that the discussion should continue, but not in one setting. It was mentioned that our adopted mission statement considered this notion.

Item #6 – Discuss Upcoming Meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

Chairperson David stated that he would get together with commission member West to work on a presentation for the upcoming meeting with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (October 12). He also asked Council Liaison Dotson to assist with ideas to present. Chairperson David asked all members for their input. He wanted to ensure that we were well prepared moving forward.

A motion was made by Chairperson David to adjourn; seconded by Stella West. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.



Rashidah Madyun for Pam Willis
Recording Secretary



Mark A. David
Chairperson