

West Ashley Senior Services Coordinating Committee (WASSCC)

15 June 2011

Attendees: Aubry Alexander, Jennifer Brown, Terry Brown, Christine Destefano, Bill Greenhill, Jan Harman, Diane Hamilton, Dave Harris, Jane Jabbour, Vic Rawl, Janet Schumacher, Brenda Smith, Carolee Williams, Ronneca Watkins, Tom Witman.

Location: The meeting took place at the Sunflower Cafe.

Colleen Condon opened the meeting with introductions.

Special Event-Community Forum

Dave Harris presented a written report of the "West Ashley Seniors Spring into Summer" special event held on 31 May 2011 in the WA High School auditorium. The report identified the accomplished tasks for the event as well as the names of those responsible. Dave Harris was in turn recognized for his great leadership and presented with a round of applause and the unanimous request of the WASSCC that he continue to serve as the Special Events Committee Chair; Dave, thankfully, agreed.

Data included in the report: 15 exhibitors, 56 registered guests, 33 guests attended for the first time, 13 guests volunteered to help in future events, 16 volunteers worked on-site for the event.

In no specific order of importance Dave also commented on the following:

- # Some disappointment with the turnout, but the location, date (summer, day after Labor Day) and less than adequate publicity may have contributed to lower numbers.
- # Food was great and was provided by Home Team, Sojourn, D.D. Peckers, and a 4th source that the recorder missed.
- # The support of City and County staff was exceptional and as such instrumental in the success of the event.
- # Ken Burger was impressed with the WA Senior Center concept and volunteered to help if he could.
- # Karl Gueldon, Director of Adult Education for WA High School, expressed an interest in having more events for seniors to be held at the high school, including holding a Senior Prom next spring.

It was moved and approved unanimously to include West Ashley High School Adult Education on the virtual senior center web site.

There was an extensive discussion about the communications and public relations needed to be planned and executed for the next special event which is generally set for November 2011 with the suggested title "Fall Fling".

It was agreed that an email newsletter needed to be created to be periodically sent out to those on the consolidated contact list as a means of keeping them engaged and excited about the WA Senior Center concept, project and process. Colleen agreed to create the email group on her Constant Contact account and send the newsletter when provided. Carolee Williams, Christine Destefano and Dave Harris agreed to form the committee that would create the email newsletter.

Also mentioned was the need to begin to build our finances through requesting/promoting donations. As established at the May meeting, donation checks are to be made out to TAAA with WASSCC cited on the subject line and checks are to be given or sent to Janet Schumacher (not sent to TAAA).

Site Selection

Carolee Williams reported that the RFP (Request For Proposal) has been mailed to known interested parties, published on various websites (City, County, WASSCC, etc.) and made available nationally through the National Council on Aging. All organizations/entities are open for proposals and there is a 90 day response time from the date of publication. All questions by applicants must be submitted by 8 July, and all applications must be submitted by 26 August. Carolee is working on further refining the criteria published in the RFP in preparation of any questions that are submitted by applicants. Individuals interested in assisting her with this process were asked to gather with Carolee after this meeting.

Road Trips

Vic Rawl reported on a visit he had made to Seabrook Island which included a tour of their new 25,000 sq. ft., 10-13 million dollar Seabrook Island Homeowner's Association Facility. Seabrook Island Mayor Bill Holts conducted the tour with Vic and pointed out the facilities design/attention to the needs and activities of seniors. Vic recommended that members of the WASSCC also visit/view the facility in order to continue to gather ideas for the design of the West Ashley Senior Center. Vic indicated that planning and financial data for the facility would also be made available for our study.

It was noted that while we (representatives of the WASSCC) had already visited the Lowcountry Senior Center and Mt. Pleasant Senior Center, it may be advisable for us to not only tour the Seabrook Island facility but to also visit/tour other area senior center facilities, e.g. Summerville Senior Center, Charleston Area Senior Center and South Santee Senior Center. To that end the following two "road trips" were tentatively scheduled:

Seabrook Island Homeowner's Assn. Facility: Wednesday, 20 July 2011 (In place of our July meeting)

Summerville Senior Center: Wednesday, 18 August 2011 (In place of our August meeting)

In regard to the Seabrook Island visit:

****Vic Rawl** will coordinate the visit with Mayor Holts.

****Christine Destefano and Carolee Williams** will try to secure a van(s) for the trip depending on the number of WASSCC members who indicate they want to attend.

****Terry Brown** will ask the WASSCC membership to indicate their attendance via the minutes distribution.

****Those who will attend/participate will meet near the gas station at the West Ashley Wal-Mart at 0900 (9 a.m.) on Wednesday, 20 July 2011.**

In regard to the Summerville Senior Center visit: ****Terry Brown** will confirm the date/time with the Center Director, Jean Ott, and inform everyone of the confirmed date/time and directions and gather commitments for attendance.

Next Regular Meeting Following the Road Trips: Wednesday, 14 September 2011, 0930-1100, at the Bees Ferry Recreation Center