

West Ashley Senior Services Coordinating Committee (WASSCC)

19 January 2011

Attendees: Aubry Alexander, Jennifer Brown, Terry Brown, Colleen Condon, Vonie Gilreath, Bill Greenhill, Dudley Gregorie, Jan Harmon, Dave Harris, Montez Martin, Vic Rawl, Janet Schumacher, Brenda Smith, Ronneca Watkins, Sandy Witman, Tom Witman, Laurie Yarbrough.

Location: The meeting took place at Brighton Place.

Colleen Condon opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance and thanking Montez Martin for the opportunity to meet at Brighton Place. Montez informed the group that Brighton Place was a public housing senior residence with 100 units. Seniors aged 62 and over were eligible to rent units and there is always a waiting list. Brighton Place was opened in 1980 and has a Charleston County address as it is just outside the City of Charleston boundry.

Special Events Sub-Committee

Dave Harris reported on/described the success of the West Ashley Senior Center Preview conducted on 10 November 2010. There were an estimated 250 attendees while 180 actually registered. Letters of thanks/appreciation will be sent to the various sponsors. Dave specifically thanked the JCC for the venue and food, the Lowcountry Senior Center for coordinating the activities and the City of Charleston for managing the parking, but he generally thanked everyone who participated in the planning and conduct of the event.

In general discussion it was agreed the WASSCC should continue to provide WA Senior Center informative events, maybe even on a quarterly basis; but at least provide another one before close of school in May when families become dispersed and/or distracted with summer activities/vacations.

It was also suggested that smaller, more focused (in audience) programs might be provided at various venues across the WA community, e.g., churches, recreation facilities, organizational/club facilities, etc.

Contact List and Membership Sub-Committee

Terry Brown stated that he has established the beginning of the consolidated contact list that had been asked to create at the last WASSCC meeting. The list contains the approximately 180 names Dave Harris transmitted to him and Terry's wife, Elizabeth, had imported it into an Excel document. Jennifer Brown has now given him the hand written registration list from one or two other events that he will add to the list while eliminating duplicates. Terry asked that if there are other lists from WASSCC events that they also be provided to him to expand the contact list.

Associated with the discussion of the contact list, it was recommended that a Membership Sub-Committee be formed to not only manage and expand the contact list but to also use the list for outreach, promulgation of information, recruitment and to generally keep the WA senior community engaged in the WA Senior Center project. It wasn't clear if anyone other than Terry Brown and Brenda Smith agreed to serve on the Membership Sub-Committee, but those overlooked/have an interest, please contact Terry.

Means of outreach/communication/contact with those on the contact list were discussed and included phone trees, post cards, email and town crier (just kidding).

Site Selection Sub-Committee

Aubry Alexander informed the group that City and County staff have been meeting over the last couple of months and consequently the RFP (Request For Proposal) is now in draft form and is ready for review. The RFP calls for a proposal by interested entities on various aspects of the WA Senior Center project, to include land/site offers, management services, fundraising, long-term funding/operational support, and community collaboration. Once the RFP document is approved (it wasn't clear who is reviewing and "approving" the RFP document) it will be published/promulgated to the community (it wasn't clear how this would be accomplished) and responses will be submitted (due date will be published with the RFP) for review. Aubry stated that the members of the review/"judging" committee would be Colleen Condon and Vic Rawl from County Council and Aubry Alexander and Dudley Gregorie from City Council.

Virtual Senior Center Sub-Committee

Ronneca Watkins reported that the mechanism and website for the establishment of the WA virtual senior center was in place, but remains to be decided and accomplished was how to implement the program. The website is up and viewable (www.seniorcenter.charlestoncounty.org) with a great heading (West Ashley Senior Center), but just some basic update information as a placeholder. Laurie Yarbrough, also a member of the sub-committee, suggested that in order to decide how to fully implement the virtual senior center that the sub-committee should expand beyond its three member membership: Ronneca, Laurie and Janet Schumacher. With that said the following individuals indicated their interest to join the Virtual Senior Center Sub-Committee: Tom Witman, Sandy Witman, Jan Harmon, Bill Greenhill, Brenda Smith, and Vonie Gilreath.

Ronneca indicated that she will call a meeting of the now expanded subcommittee within the next couple of weeks to focus on the implementation of virtual senior center.

It was suggested (but I may have been the only one who heard it...oh, probably because I suggested it to myself) that the web address be changed to read "westashleyseniorcenter" and not just "seniorcenter".

Formal Organization

Once again the need was expressed for the WASSCC to adopt a formal organization structure. It was even suggested and that the WASSCC be formed as a 501(c)(3) organization. Much discussion covered old ground of pros and cons with the seeming agreement that it was still early (premature?) for such an action and that the informality and flexibility of the current organization still served the mission best.

It was suggested (but again only I heard it), that the existing Vision Sub-Committee chaired by Elizabeth Bernat, be assigned this issue for study and recommendation. It was further suggested that the issue of formal structure, how and when, might actually be an element of a bigger task, that of creating a "pathway to the future", or strategic outline.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 23 February 2011, from 0930-1100, at the Bees Landing Recreation Center.

Note: Comments in **BOLD** are post-scripted brain darts of the minutes guy/Communications Director and were not actually stated at the meeting.