

West Ashley Senior Services Coordinating Committee (WASSCC)

20 July 2011

Attendees: Elizabeth Bernat, Jennifer Brown, Terry Brown, Jan Harman, Dave Harris, Lauren Minors, Linda Slater

Location: Meeting was a tour of the The Lake House at Seabrook Island (Community Center)

Van Driver: Randy Moultrie, Charleston County

The attendees participated in a guided tour of The Lake House at Seabrook Island that included driving tour of the island. Transportation to, from and around Seabrook Island was provided by a van and driver from Charleston County as coordinated by Christine DeStefano. The driver, Randy Moultrie, was on-time, professional, personable, and a skilled and safe driver. Randy accepted our invitation to take part in the tour and his presence added to the experience.

Mayor Bill Holtz greeted us at the door to The Lake House and provided the welcome and introductory comments before turning us over to Nick Porter, Director, who conducted the bulk of the tour.

The 25,000 sq.ft. facility was laid out in a gentle V shape with the atrium/gathering-place and main entrance in the center. To the left upon entry were the meeting, social and activity rooms to include the Live Oak Hall (32'x65'), the Oyster Catcher Community Center (27'x53'), a large library and 6 other fairly large meeting/activity rooms. All the social and activity rooms were designed for multi-functions and flexibility except one room designed more specifically with hard surfaces/floor to accommodate art work. The hallway in this wing of the facility permitted the hanging/showing of local art which were rotated regularly, but were always for sale.

To the right upon entry was the large fitness center with a weight area and much cardio equipment, group exercise/aerobic room, indoor swimming pool, dressing rooms, and two general purpose rooms. The outdoor swimming pool was accessed through the indoor swimming pool.

To the rear of the facility was a large fishing lake with a .647 mile paved trail around it. Between the facility and the lake was a very, very large grass yard for outside activities, games and events. Overlooking the yard/lake attached to the back of the facility was a covered veranda with chairs that stretched nearly the length of the building.

Of course if this description does nothing for you then you can just look at it yourself via the internet at: <http://sipoa.org/lake>.

In no specific order the following comments made by Nick Porter are recorded:

- Facility cost 10 million and has been open for about two years
- 6,000 individuals per month use the facility
- The dynamic/principal that guides the evolutionary operations of the facility is that members are to feel ownership and their interests as owners are paramount in planning.
- Biggest mistake is not building big enough for future needs and rapid growth and not having enough room on the property for lateral expansion.
- The most important operational investment is in quality staff.
- Design in liberal and creative use of portable walls.
- The loading dock (in the back) needs to be designed as an alternate handicap access.
- Design in sound panels in ceilings, particularly for larger spaces and spaces with higher ceilings.
- Design in ample rest rooms/changing rooms.

- Their experience with a cafe was that it lost big money, so it is now a break-out/general purpose/vending room.
- Group exercise room(s) must have their own sound system(s).
- Place ample white-boards in exercise rooms.
- Need to have at least one activity room identified as a working lounge with WI-FI, desks, tables.
- Rubber flooring for gym; don't carpet or place fabric furniture in rest rooms/locker rooms.
- Plan space for outdoor activities/socials/events.
- Pools cost \$30,000 a year for maintenance.
- Large activity hall (Live Oak Hall) is designed for large events, conferences, video presentations, dances, diners.
- Large activity hall has large residential kitchen adjacent that accommodates caterers.
- Activity rooms can be reserved and rented.
- There is a volunteer advisory group for the facility itself and one for operations/activities.

Next Meeting/Tour: Summerville/Dorchester County Senior Center, Wednesday, 18 August 2011 (In place of our August meeting). Transportation is planned to be arranged again the gathering place will be in the larger portion of the Ashley Landing Shopping Center, but toward Publix. More information will be provided at a later time.

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