

Senior Services Board Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2026
2:00 pm
Community Building – John Neighbors Room

I. **Call to Order:** *Meeting called to order by Chair Diana Ayers at 2:02 pm.*

II. **Attendance – Diana Ayers:**

- **Absent:** *Gail Edlund, Edna Kelly, Karen Kenny*
- **Present:** *Chair Diana Ayers, Board Members Suzanne Thomas, Lori Hill, Soraya Brombacher, Melinda Castro, Janice Kemp, Ruth Becker, Robin Burks, Debbie Pedrick, Elena Stellenwerf, Elizabeth McGee, Geri Wood; Senior Services Director Michelle Blunt; Board Liaison and Mayor Pro Tem John Barnes. Also in attendance, Parks & Recreation Director Susan White*
- **Community Members:** *Dick Yehle*

III. **Approval of Minutes:** *December 11, 2025, minutes unanimously approved — motion by Geri Wood, seconded by Lori Hill.*

IV. **Citizen Comments**

During the review of member suggestions (see VI, below), citizen **Dick Yehle** expressed interest in available senior living residences. He will investigate and may provide the Board with (preferably unbiased) possible resources.

V. **Review City Council Initiatives:**

Action Item: **Michelle Blunt** asked members to review and prioritize these Council initiatives for our next meeting: *Programming Goalsetting and Effective Space Utilization (review and coordinate with staff on programming goals and space utilization); Play West U Ambassadors (board participation to promote the new App); Explore Transportation Opportunities available for residents; Collaborate with senior living facilities and foster continued socialization.*

VI. **Review Suggestion Submissions from December Meeting**

Board members received a double-sided handout that summarized board action suggestions collected at the December meeting. (“December Suggestion Summary”). The suggestions fall into six categories: speakers; community outreach, programming, trips, requesting information, and “other ideas.”

Specifically, members discussed the possibility of:

- *Activities involving dogs – Is there potential liability? Is there an organization willing to coordinate with Senior Services and provide activities involving dogs, similar to dog therapy?*
- *Generating more interest – Members shared ideas to generate interest, including the possibility of a “bring a friend,” “bring grandchildren,” or “host a fair” event(s). There was a consensus that the Board should coordinate events to provide morning and afternoon opportunities to promote Senior Services activities.*

- **Action Items:**

- Members **Melinda Castro, Elizabeth McGee, and Janice Kemp** volunteered to consider promotion opportunities to present at the February meeting. **Michelle Blunt** will coordinate communications among these team members.
- **Michelle Blunt** asked members to review and prioritize the suggestions listed in the December Suggestion Summary, ranking their importance within each category.

VII. Monthly Reports

A. Senior Services Manager, Michelle Blunt

Michelle Blunt explained the organization of various activities and programs listed in the Play West U magazine. Statistical data collection is in progress. Her email group for seniors totals 2,400 names at this time.

B. Parks & Recreation Director, Susan White

Susan White updated members on Parks & Recreation activities: the City Council Facilities Utilization Task Force (FUTF) has asked for data to assist in its analysis of the library and Senior Services Center; Edloe pathway work continues; Rec Center Cardio/Weightroom expansion is ongoing. At a future time, she will provide members with statistics on use.

C. Good Neighbor Team: Soraya Brombacher

Soraya Brombacher explained that the Good Neighbor Team (GNT) is in the process of “age gathering” to assist in program evaluation. Now, citizens must be widowed or at least 85 to receive GNT visits. They are exploring the possibility of making requirements more expansive. She invited interested members to participate.

D. Living Longer Representative: Robin Burks

Robin Burks asked members to get the word out for Living Longer events, generally and those occurring through April 16, highlighted on a provided handout (copy attached). Living Longer events occur on select Thursdays, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Senior Services building.

E. Golden Notes Chorus: Michelle Blunt

The Sing A Long is going strong and is an enjoyable, well-received event.

F. APAC Update – Board members should let Michelle Blunt know if they wish to be included on APAC communications.

Additional Comments: Mayor Protem and Board Liaison John Barnes updated the Board on Council activities and the upcoming agenda.

VIII. Next Steps

Ruth Becker, Geri Wood, and Suzanne Thomas agreed to serve on a Fees Committee. **Michelle Blunt** reminded members to prioritize council initiatives and December Suggestions for February.

IX. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Geri Wood, seconded by Robin Burks. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

-Respectfully submitted, Janice Kemp