

**H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Center  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2023**

**Members Present:** Betty Grant, Sharon Proctor, Cass Roberts, Janie McVay, Charles Stephens, Robin McClain-Gibson, Evelyn Pressley, Regena Baynard, Tamra Moody

**Members Absent:** Carl Morrow, Rev. Thompson (Chair), Janet Beani, Mattie Adams, Jancy Patrick (Pat Blanton resigned from board on December 15, 2022)

**Staff Present:** Tabitha Thomas, Lynn Lail, Whitney Douglas, Brittini England, Karen Grigg, Bonnie Hale

**Welcome and Lunch with Blessing**

As Rev. Thompson could not attend the meeting, Tabitha Thomas welcomed those in attendance and said the blessing before the lunch. Cass Roberts, Secretary, assisted in the procedural parts of the meeting.

**Call to Order and Determine Quorum**

Cass called the meeting to order. A quorum was determined to be present.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the October 25, 2022, Patrick Senior Center Advisory Board Meeting were presented for review. There being no comments, additions, or changes, Regena Baynard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Janie McVay seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Staff Reports**

Staff made presentations on various reports to the Board. Questions and comments, if any, were taken after each report.

*Director's Report: Tabitha Thomas*

Tabitha discussed COVID-19 and how it still can affect the Patrick Center. Currently, there is volunteer masking throughout the Center. Staff continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation, receiving guidance from the State, and informing the Center's participants as needed as changes arise.

Other topics:

- The Center is receiving 2 grants from SHIP: \$5,239 and \$2,800. Tabitha added that she applied for a Public Workforce grant for \$11,000 which goes into the City's revenue and then dispensed into the SHIP counselors' salaries.

- Tabitha stated that Lynn, Whitney, and herself have helped 119 clients with Open Enrollment for Medicare and drug plans. They expect a total of 200 will be served this fiscal year.
- Baker Roofing continues to work on the building's roof.
- Butler's, private landscaper, will take care of landscaping for the Center.
- The Pavilion for the Community Garden donated by Mauney Library will open by the end of the year. The garden participants will donate a portion of their crops to the Center which will, in turn, donate those crops to Seniors and other community groups.
- The Center's water heater was replaced.
- Some outdated furniture in the hallways will eventually be replaced.
- The Center's SCOPE Recertification occurred on November 17, 2022. Recertification as a Center of Excellence allows for more funding for the Center.
- Kings Mountain City Manager, Marilyn Sellers, has retired. She is expected to receive the Order of the Long Leaf Pine at the City Council meeting this evening.
- The City of Kings Mountain has a new City Manager, Jim Palenick. Jim has a wealth of experience working in City government. He has worked locally as City Manager of Gastonia and Dallas. Jim's plan was for increased economic development for the city. He believes in transparency, and he wants citizens to be involved with their government. Jim has already visited the Patrick Center and viewed it positively.
- Albemarle Lithium was supposed to donate \$5,000 for the Patrick Center Christmas Party but that did not happen. The Albemarle Lithium staff member who promised the donation had to take "forced vacation." Tabitha said that she would try them again for future donations.
- Dellinger's Jewel Shop in downtown Kings Mountain helped finance the Christmas Party with a donation of \$2,000. Lew, the owner, called Tabitha one day and asked what did the Center need.
- To add to the Christmas Party gifts, Tabitha used some of the General Purpose funding to give each Senior a \$10 gift card. Even though Tabitha could not attend the Christmas Party due to illness, the staff and volunteers did a fantastic job.
- Tabitha stated that they are reviewing the current building rental contract. The rental fee is very low compared to other facilities. She will also look at transportation fees. Currently the Center charges \$1.00 a ride and with the increased cost of gas, it will be prudent to make some adjustments.

Tabitha asked for input from members regarding goals for this year. Some ideas are as follows:

1. The Center is not back to full capacity with 80 people per day. We want to increase our participation numbers and get them back to pre-COVID standards.
2. Goals and activities for "connection," especially after COVID-19, started with Meet and Greets. Regena and Mickey have been ambassadors for the Center in showing new folks around and telling them about the activities.
3. Tabitha wants to expand activities for Caregivers.
4. 90% of people who find the Center are here due to word of mouth.

5. The Rock-A-Thon for Alzheimer research will occur again this year.
6. Social events, such as dances, more planned trips will increase, possibly an overnight.
7. Virtual programming such as the Facebook Show shown at the Center each Monday at 10:00 am. Other programs may follow.
8. More outdoor activities around the pavilion will be planned, especially after Mauney Library completes their work.
9. Women's Health Programs are in the works for this year. A Health series for men and Mental Health program are planned.
10. Tabitha suggested a Senior Center Art Show for Seniors to display or sell their art.

*Financial Report: Whitney Douglas*

Whitney reviewed the financials for the 2nd Quarter, FY2022-2023. She said that we are halfway through our budget year at 38%. The report does not reflect the roof repairs and the water heater replacement which will be reflected in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter financials. This report shows Title III HCCB Grant Funding, Building Rentals, and other grants received. She also reported on donation totals and the sales for the gift shop.

Tabitha added that there is no money in the budget for pet food. She asked that members petition their churches, groups, and others to donate pet food or money for it. Another pet food drive will occur this year in Monty's memory.

*Programming Report: Karen Grigg*

Karen talked about the event statistics from October through December 2022.

- Center participants engaged in activities with the highest attendance in Fitness, Social Events, with Recreation, Arts, and Food in good attendance as well.
- There were 2,739 volunteer hours recorded at the Center.
- Total events sign-ins were 8,575 duplicated and 601 unduplicated.
- Regena Baynard announced that there will be a free dulcimer concert at the Center on Saturday, March 4, 2023, from 3:00 pm until 4:00 pm. There may be an opportunity for dulcimer classes here at the Center along with a class on making a dulcimer out of a cardboard kit for beginners to keep expenses down while they learn.
- There are still openings for the Discovery Place trip for Monday, February 6 and the cost is \$24, with lunch at Cracker Barrel.
- There is a Valentines' Dance on Friday, February 10, from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm.
- There will be a Black History Month program on Tuesday, February 14, from 9:00 am until 11:00 am.
- The Shred truck will be at the Center on Tuesday, Feb. 7 and Tuesday, March 7.
- Tabitha thought that at future dances, attendees could bring in pet food donations.
- A hearing loss and dementia presentation by Miracle Ear will occur on Tuesday, March 7.
- Tips for Disasters and Emergency Alerts will occur on March 21, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm.

- Janie pointed out that you can contact your power company about the need to have power restored quickly from a power outage. There may be someone or yourself in your household who needs power to run health and life saving machines. Charles Stephens agreed as he had a need for power in his home to be quickly restored when he was recovering.
- A future program at the Center about Senior discounts was discussed.

*Technology Report: Lynn Lail*

Lynn reviewed the following information and referenced other topics:

- 104 new clients registered in this 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.
- 800 participants were active during the 2nd quarter: 600 active participants last year with a 15% increase in participation this year.
- There were 5,057 sign-ins for activities: 83 participants a day.
- The highest age group of participants was the 70-74 age group, with the 65-69 age group coming in second.
- In town participants totaled 73%, with out-of-town participants at 26.4%.
- October was the busiest month.
- Friday is the busiest day of the week with Mondays coming in second.

*Services Report: Brittni England*

Brittini reported the following and referenced other topics:

- There were 1,751 units of service serving 479 participants, an increase of 14% from last year's quarter totals.
- Food Pantry needs remain constant.
- Bread Give Away occurs each week.
- Ensure supplemental drink needs remain constant.
- There is a continued need for more pet food donations.
- New client orientation and assistance is offered on a regular basis.
- Food Drive participants have increased.
- Incontinence product needs remain constant.

Tabitha stated that since Janet Beani is out on medical leave, Pat Spry is coordinating Congregate Lunch. Staff also helps as needed.

*Transportation Report: Bonnie Hale*

Bonnie reported on the following:

- In October, there were 69 General Transportation trips and 137 Medical trips serving 9 participants for General and 21 for Medical.
- In November, there were 76 General Transportation trips and 113 Medical trips serving 8 participants for General and 16 for Medical.
- In December, there were 88 General Transportation trips and 138 Medical trips serving 8 participants for General and 15 for Medical.

Tabitha reported that TACC got additional funding that they must spend so they are paying for our transportation throughout the rest of the fiscal year. As a result, the current transportation budget line item can be transferred to another budgetary line item, as needed.

**Other Business, Comments, Concerns**

Cass invited questions or comments from Board members. There were none at this time.

**Adjournment**

There being no other discussions, Cass Roberts entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charles Stephens made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Janie McVay seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting**

Tuesday, April 25, 2023