



RSVP Advisory Council Meeting
Minutes of April 10, 2007

Members Present

Sandy Caviness	Kaaren Kimball
Amelia S. Clarke	Anne Langenfeld
Alicia de Jong Davis	Mary S. Newton
Rosa de Leon	Cora P. Ramirez
Stefania Garza	Barbara Rodgers
Marilyn Ginty	Irma Chavez-Rodriguez
Armida H. Hernandez	Shirley J. Whelen

Members Absent

Marcellus Fullmore
Robert Marin
Sofia Ordonez
Esther Perez

Staff

Norma Corona
Henry Drake
Lori Rodriguez
Eva F. Aguilar
Sandra Serrano

Call to Order and Quorum Count

Meeting called to order by Rosa de Leon @ 10:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes reviewed and approved.

Announcements/Comments

Mrs. Rodgers notified council that Mr. Wickline had suffered a small heart attack and was now back home. Mrs. Clarke asked staff to introduce themselves and briefly explain their duties with RSVP.

Mrs. De Leon informed council that the AARP Information Center was seeking volunteers. Henry also advised council of a mentor program needing volunteers; he passed around a pamphlet on the program.

Unfinished Business

Mrs. De Leon swore in new council members: Barbara Rodgers, Amelia S. Clarke, Anne Langenfeld, and Mary S. Newton.

New Business

Sandra shared with council an idea Mrs. De Leon had about providing all council members with a contact list. Sandra also explained that in order to provide all council members with a copy of everyone's phone number, address and some e-mail addresses, everyone would have to be in agreement to release this information. Council was in agreement and a contact list would be provided at the next advisory meeting.

Norma announced to council that they may start soliciting for banquet ads. Mrs. Whelen was concerned that the price for the calling card ads was a bit high. Mrs. Garza felt that since the banquet booklet reached over 800 seniors and when you divide 800 by 50, it really wasn't much. Norma mentioned that if a donor does not want to place an ad they can always donate a door prize or gift certificate. Mrs. Chavez-Rodriguez suggested that all council members bring in a basket. She also suggested setting a price limit for each basket.

Lori asked council if they had all received a nomination form for the Older El Pasoan Hall of Fame. She also reminded council that the deadline to submit nominations was April 18th, that individuals nominated had to be 65 or older and do not have to be RSVP volunteers. Norma also added that there will be a special mention for nominees over 85.

Eva informed council that Lori and her had the opportunity to meet with Judge Gamboa. They were informed that the Probate Court was in need of volunteers for their Court Visitor Program, currently there are 5000 seniors under state guardianship. Eva explained they need volunteers to go out and visit with clients and complete a form on how they are doing. Lori mentioned volunteers do not have to be 55 or older and they can be either Spanish or English speaking. Eva mentioned volunteers would be given 10 dollars for each visit. Mrs. Davis asked if it was possible to get someone from the Probate Court to come out and explain the process.

Eva spoke to council about The Calling All Seniors Program and the need for volunteers to make the calls.

Norma spoke to the council about needing their help with contacting their congressmen. Norma explained how the grant for RSVP was going to become a competitive grant. She explained if that were to occur any organization would be able to apply for the grant. Mrs. Clarke commented that letters and e-mails would not work; it would have to be something more personal. She felt that a phone call would get better results. Norma went on to explain that RSVP has been with the City for 33 years and is well established. She felt that any other agency or organization that would be awarded the grant would have to re-start the program.

Mrs. Hernandez suggested getting AARP involved.

Suggestions for the Good of the Council

Mrs. Rodgers asked council to vote yes for the May 12th bond election. She explained the bond would help build new schools to meet the need of new military families coming in to El Paso.

Norma mentioned the Senior Expo to be held May 22-23. RSVP will be sharing a booth with the Foster Grandparent Program. She asked if anyone was interested in working the booth to contact Henry and he would put together a schedule, each shift would be two hours.

Henry announced that he plans to put something together soon for those council members that showed interest in going out and reading at schools.

Henry also encouraged council in becoming a mentor to children of prisoners. He mentioned being a mentor for these children could make a big difference.

Mrs. Rodgers reminded council of Dia de los Ninos, Saturday April 28th. She mentioned Dora the Explorer would be there.

Kaaren Kimball invited council to the 20th year anniversary of the Eastside Senior Center on April 19th from 10-4. She mentioned there would be a champagne fountain, displays of art work and the Rockerettes would perform before lunch.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Next Meeting

May 8, 2007