



Senior Center and LINX Transit

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ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

October 16, 2024

MTG REPORT

Members Present: Joli Root, Cody Wack, Linda Meredith, Barbara Hemnes, Marlene Flyer, Sherry Leist

Excused Absence: Dorrie Board

Staff Present: Rebecca Wirfs and Kindra Oliver

1. WELCOME:

Rebecca opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Kindra had a meeting conflict and would join the group a bit late.

2. MINUTES:

Marlene moved to approve the minutes from the June 26th, 2024 Advisory Board meeting; Linda seconded; motion passed unanimously.

3. REPORTS:

Meal Site:

- Andy is back in town for a couple of months and currently volunteering to help in the kitchen every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Tori has a new volunteer, Devon, helping in the kitchen every Monday, as well.
- Tori continues to look for additional volunteers to drive and help in the kitchen. Tori can utilize volunteers who can drive once a month up to every day of the week.

Senior Center:

- The Senior Center added the following programs and classes since our last meeting:
 - Game Night: We have added a monthly evening Game Night and have had a great turn out. Thank you to Willamette Manor for providing the charcuterie board and thank you to Dorrie for volunteering to help Rebecca to make the evening fun for all.
 - Sun Salutations: We started an early morning class (9:00am), three days a week, in the Academy Square gazebo. We liked the idea of a quick yoga inspired, meditative time for participants to connect their mind, body and spirit to bring the best of themselves for the day. We did have quite a few seniors try it out, but

attendance wasn't consistent for most. The earlier time might not appeal to some and the gazebo didn't offer quite the ambiance of the lovely park setting we had hoped for. We will try for a park setting exercise class of some sort when things warm up again.

- The Senior Center has had some stand-alone policies for the last 20 years, some which have overlap with each other. We decided it would be a good idea to merge the policies into one Senior Center Policy and Operations Manual, as we reviewed and updated the policies that needed to be revised.

We have aligned our Senior Center policy with other City buildings and now allow service animals only, as defined by ADA guidelines.

We have added some other language to address some safety concerns and our ability to provide a welcoming, safe and appealing environment for all visitors and users of the Senior Center.

- The Crochet for a Cause project has been going very well. We've had a consistent number of seniors helping and they've completed 30 blankets to donate! The group is continuing with a volunteer to lead and continue their efforts.
- Senior Center staff shared the following annual stats with the group:
 - The Senior Center had 35,430 connections last fiscal year; 28% were led by Senior Center staff (exercise classes, crafts, events, etc.), 17% were led by volunteers (bingo, card groups, etc.), 29% were self-led by seniors (exercise room, computer use, puzzles, etc.), 11% facilitated by an outside agency (LBCC exercise classes, AARP, SHIBA, OSU Extension, etc.) and 15% required Senior Center staff to lead or assist (information and referral inquiries, tours, etc.).
 - Cascades West Council of Governments provided hot nutritious meals to 44,689 seniors, 4,474 at the congregational meal site at the Senior Center and 40,215 were delivered to homebound seniors in the community through their Meals-on-Wheels program.
 - We had 129 rentals/requests for room usage, resulting in 9,040 visitors associated with those requests.
- The group had discussion about other ideas for programming, which included a spa day, progressing dinner, music during evening hours, celebration of trees (as a fund raiser idea) and others.

LINX Transit:

- LINX Transit continues to bring see increases in ridership:
 - FY24-25 – currently at 21,000 rides (as of 10/15/24); projecting 72,000-75,000 this year
 - FY23-24: 63,948 rides
 - FY22-23: 47,851 rides
 - FY21-22: 30,021 rides
 - Prior 10-year average was approximately 20,000 rides each FY
- We currently have a FULLTIME Driver recruitment open and hope to conduct interviews in the next week or so.

- LINX Transit Grant Application Update:
 - Federal 5310 funds – submitted application for preventative maintenance and requested a new van with more capacity
 - Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds (STIF)
 - Submitted applications to Linn County for STIF Payroll and Population funds for ongoing LINX operations
 - STIF Discretionary ----
 - Submitted application for PILOT Project for expanded Loop service and FTE --- in response to our significant increase in rides --- (there is not enough revenue for LINN County STIF)
 - Submitted application for 10.27% match for replacement vehicle through STBG funds
 - Submitted application for 15% match for new vehicle through 5339 funds
 - Federal 5311 funds for operations are due to Oregon Department of Transportation on November 20th, 2024

- LINX Transit Project Updates:
 - LINX Fleet Parking: Our Maintenance Department is working on site improvements to prep the lot for paving; The City went out for bid for paving; The lot should be ready for parking the buses in the next few months. .

- LINX Transit bus stop improvements at Park & Oak Street:
 - Staff is still working with ODOT and FTA on the environmental NEPA process. We learned yesterday that we now need to do a cultural assessment on the property. The property was looked at in 2013 and deemed it was not a historical property. However, FTA indicates we have to conduct a new assessment if its been over 5 years since the last one. The cultural assessment shouldn't cost too much and will come out of the funds slated for the project.

- LINX Transit scheduling and dispatching software:
 - We received seven responses to our Request for Information (RFI) for the scheduling and dispatching software. We have gone through one demo and working on scheduling the others. We hope to publish the Request for Proposal (RFP) in January.

4. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Senior Center staff has translated our LINX Transit and Senior Center brochures into Spanish. We will work on translating policies into Spanish, as well.

Senior Center staff have been looking into options for improving social media presence for the Senior Center and LINX Transit. We're looking into some free programs for staff to utilize in order to sharpen up the look of our posts to be more eye catching and professional.

5. DISCUSSION / NEW BUSINESS:

- Next Advisory Board Meetings scheduled:
 - January 15th, 10:00 am
 - April 16th, 10:00 am

6. ADJOURNMENT