



MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON AGING  
City Council Chambers City Hall  
300 W. Main St. Grand Prairie, TX 75050  
October 14, 2020  
10:30 A.M.

Members Present

Don Smarto, Freddie Evans, Lorraine Rose, Barbara Thomas, Ann Hunter, Cynthia Smith, Prudence Mathis, Nancy Wooten and AARP Representative, Lee Lee Lee

Members Absent – 0

Citizens Present – 2

CALL TO ORDER at 10:31 am by Don Smarto

PRAYER – at 10:32 am by Don Smarto

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made to approve the March 11<sup>th</sup> minutes by Cynthia Smith and seconded by Freddie Evans.

STANDING UPDATES

1. City Staff introduced themselves:
  - a. Erin Hart, Assistant Director of Parks, Arts, and Recreation gave her introduction with an update on the transitions of positions within the city. Cheryl Deleon, former Parks and Recreation Director, moved into Deputy City Manager position, Duane Strawn moved into the Director of Parks and Recreation position, she (Erin Hart) moved into the Assistant Director of Operations position, and Chris Ginapp moved into the Recreation Superintendent position.
  - b. Chris Ginapp, Recreation Superintendent and former Summit General Manager gave his introduction with a quick update on the new General Manager at the Summit, Daniel Cauthen.
2. The new commissioners (Cynthia Smith, Prudence Mathis, and Nancy Wooten) gave their introductions first and were followed by the AARP representative and the returning commissioners (Lee Lee Lee, Barbra Thomas, Freddie Evans, Don Smarto, Ann Hunter, and Lorraine Rose).
3. The Nutrition program at the Summit is still serving approximately 80 people per day (Monday – Friday). Since the closure the Summit has served 9,126 meals (see the breakdown of meals served per month below).
  - a. April – 1,485
  - b. May – 1,323
  - c. June – 1,502
  - d. July – 1,565
  - e. August – 1,605
  - f. September – 1,646

If you are 60 years of age or older and live in Dallas County you may sign up for this program by filling out an application. To get an application call 972-237-4141. Not offering new transportation applications at this time. Once the Summit reopens in January, they will continue to serve meals via drive-through to comply with our “fitness-only” reopening.

4. Chris Ginapp gave the Summit and City updates. The Summit is expected to open on Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 a.m.  
Daniel Cauthen was hired on as the new Summit General Manager. Daniel has been with the city for 8 years now. He started out interning at the Uptown Theater in 2012 before joining the Summit staff in 2013. He was then promoted to the General Manager position at the Uptown Theater. Now he has returned to the Summit as the new General Manager. Once the Summit reopens it will be solely a fitness facility with modified hours and a limited capacity (no more than 25% roughly 150 people at one time).  
No social programs, the billiards/game room will be closed, no card games, the Nutrition Program will remain a drive through/delivery service... Summit memberships were frozen from the date of the closure (March 13<sup>th</sup>). Members have two options: 1. When the member comes back to the Summit their membership will be unfrozen. 2. If members want a refund, they can call 972-237-4141 to ask about a prorated refund.  
Construction around and in the Summit is in full force. There are 11 new handicap parking spots, the entrance/exit off of Warrior Trail is now the one and only entrance and exit to the Summit, new hand rails were added to the vortex in the pool, a new AV system was added to the Wings Theater, new locker doors with a new lock mechanism have been added to all lockers.  
City updates include: After school programs have started up once again, Uptown's presenting series is still happening and they are honoring season tickets (with capacity guidelines), Grand Prairie Memorial Gardens Balloon release to remember the infants who passed from SIDS scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>, participation at the golf courses and the lakes have increased, Grand Prairie's Farmers Market was voted number 1 in Texas, Epic waters is open on the weekends only, and the Play Grand Adventures park is expected to reopen on October 16<sup>th</sup>.
5. Erin Hart presented the February 2020 Partnership Award to Don Smarto. She spoke of Don's accomplishments and his contributions to the City of Grand Prairie.
6. Don Smarto presented a Certificate of Appreciation to former COA Chairman, Carlton Adams. Don said a few words about Carlton's 7 years of commitment and dedication to COA, and Carlton said a few words thanking the commission.

#### PRESENTATIONS

1. The presentation "How Attitudes affect Senior Quality of Life" was presented by Don Smarto. He started his presentation with a quote from Charles Swindoll, "Life is 10 percent what happens to you, 90 percent how you react to it." Don went on to elaborate on how having a positive attitude contributes to a greater quality of life. He discussed concepts of volunteerism, healthy relationships, advantages of aging over youth, and listing your blessings to name a few. To watch this presentation, go to the Grand Fun YouTube channel. (<https://www.youtube.com/user/GrandFunGP>)

#### COA ANNUAL PLAN

1. Many of the commissioners had several good ideas for COA. Lorraine Rose started off stating that one on one contact is important and makes people feel heard. She went on to suggest that COA needs to get more involved in attending events similar to Farmer's Market to get that community reach. Ann Hunter then followed by suggesting more promotion/partnership activities for COA. She stated that connecting with churches, the retirement village, and other businesses would help get the marketing and networking COA needs. Cynthia Smith then posed some insightful questions: How do we connect with the unconnected? How do we get ourselves out there and inform the people that COA exists?

She followed up on her questions and suggested that we partner with the school district so that they can mentor the youth. Freddie Evans echoed this and stated that mentoring youth is a way for seniors to get involved and to erase the disconnect between the seniors and the young people. She also suggested partnering with other Grand Prairie Organizations so that the City of Grand Prairie can promote itself efficiently. Freddie also stated that being visible and going out into the community is the most important thing that the COA commissioners can do. All commissioners agreed that this was very important.

2. There were many ideas not yet expounded on and establishing COA goals for 2021 would need more time, so Freddie Evans made a motion to continue this discussion at a planning meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Ann Hunter seconded the motion.

#### ACTION ITEMS

1. Ann Hunter nominated Don Smarto for the COA Chairman position. Freddie Evans seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Don Smarto is now the 2021 Commission on Aging Chairman.
2. Don Smarto nominated Ann Hunter for the COA Vice Chairman position. Lorraine Rose seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Ann Hunter is now the 2021 Commission on Aging Vice Chairman.

#### CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No citizens' comments.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 am by Don Smarto. The motion was seconded by Ann Hunter.

Jaclyn Gunderson - Reporting Secretary