

Norman Forward Senior Center  
Ad Hoc Advisory Group  
January 31, 2019

The Norman Forward Senior Center Ad Hoc Advisory Group of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Multi-Purpose Room on the 31st day of January, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at 201 West Gray Street, 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

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ITEM 1, being:

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Hobson and Members Jewell, Knudsen, and Terry

Absent: Member Bonner

Others Present: Mayor Lynn Miller, Ex-Officio Tom Sherman (CFOB), Richard Bailey, Ward 3 Candidate, Scott Mellgren, Ward 1 Citizen, and Bette Maffucci, Interested Citizen

Staff Present: Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, Jason Olsen, Recreation Superintendent, Terry Floyd, Development Coordinator, and Karla Sitton, Administrative Technician IV

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ITEM 2, being:

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 12, 2016 MEETING

Member Jewell made the motion seconded by Member Terry to approve the minutes. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Hobson and Members Jewell, Knudsen, and Terry

NAY: None

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ITEM 3, being:

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Chairman Hobson thanked those in attendance and requested everyone introduce themselves. Introductions were made and Chairman Hobson said she was honored to serve as Chairman of the Senior Center Ad Hoc Group.

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ITEM 4, being:

#### DISCUSS SENIOR CENTER VISIONING SESSION

Mayor Lynn Miller began the discussion stating a lot has changed from initial discussions regarding a Senior Center and 2008 Bond Vote. She felt the City as well as the citizens of Norman want more than a center for seniors, but rather a place for the entire community. Mayor Miller said she would like to have a Senior Conference/Seminar to gain input from not only a large group of seniors, but from experts in the field who have designed and constructed senior centers. She said the City has not held a Senior Center Visioning Session before stating it would need to be a manageable one day seminar and hopefully done every year. Mayor Miller said Ellen and Doug Gallow of Lifespan Design Studio could be invited to speak and give their expert opinions on what the best facilities in the county look like as they have worked in over 70 cities. Other people that could be invited include National Senior Institute, the operating group and the OKC MAPS representative for the Oklahoma City (OKC) Senior Wellness Center on Rockwell. Senior citizens as well as any interested citizen are welcome to attend.

Richard Bailey, Ward 1 Candidate, said having a Senior Center Visioning Session is an outstanding suggestion and the Committee agreed. Member Knudsen said she recently visited a senior center named the Active Living Center in Plymouth, Massachusetts and really liked the name. She said she also liked the north base location and felt it would be a great area for growth. Member Jewell said the staff, and design groups need to talk to and ask the people who would be using the center to see what they prefer as far as design, use, etc. She said she wondered what a 21,000+ square foot building could look like and drew up plans that included several items wanted/needed from the 2016 Norman Forward Senior Citizen Ad Hoc Group discussions. Member Jewell shared the plan drawings with the Committee and said she welcomed any comments.

Mayor Miller said most of the centers she has toured did not have a lot of people, let alone seniors in them. Chairman Hobson felt centers are a very important social aspect for seniors.

Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided a timeline overview to the Committee. He said several months ago the City of Norman knew about the possible land acquisition at north base, next to the YMCA, whereas a stand-alone Senior Center could be constructed as well as constructing another building holding both the Aquatics Facility and Multi-Sport Facility. The City has selected several design teams to conduct interviews with to design a Senior Center. Mr. Foster said a contract with the design team will be an item on Council's agenda for consideration and approval. Recently the City was granted access from the University to inspect the north base site and a master planning effort for the entire site will begin soon that will include the Senior Center, Aquatics Facility, and Multi-Sport Facility. The design team will probably take a year, maybe less, to prepare specific design and construction documents for a Senior Center and it will take approximately another year to complete construction. Mr. Foster said the design team could be involved with the Senior Center Visioning Session, assisting with ideas and prioritization of the project. Mr. Foster emphasized to the Committee that discussions and meetings held in 2016 regarding the Senior Center includes old information and is outdated. He said today's meeting will begin a "starting over" process as well as the public input that will be gathered.

Mayor Miller felt that there will be a lot of good possibilities with having all three facilities located at north base and near one another. Mr. Bailey said input was needed to determine what the public envisioned. He felt the target market for senior centers has changed from the 1965 model which targeted the last ten years of senior life to targeting last 25 years of senior life due to people living longer because of health, exercise, food, etc.

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Ex-Officio Sherman with the Norman Forward Citizens Financial Oversight Board (CFOB) said the design for the Senior Center needed to be very flexible so that areas/rooms can be updated and/or repurposed because senior living will change and evolve over time. Chairman Hobson said one thing she has heard after speaking to people about a new Senior Center is that it will need to be a center that includes mixed aged visitors. Ex-Officio Sherman agreed and said people are living longer; therefore, they need a place to interact as a community. Mr. Foster said another important future discussion to have is whether or not the current senior center will be repurposed.

Member Terry said he likes the north base site; however, he felt there would be transportation concerns due to infrastructure and street issues. Mayor Miller felt the entire process, including the topic of transportation, is important. Member Terry said during the 2016 discussions, senior citizens preferred a senior center near the central library, but that location is not even being discussed at this time. Mayor Miller said there was a group in 2016 that preferred a senior center close to the central library; however, space in the area was/is very limited, involved buying property and moving people out of their homes. She said some wanted a senior center constructed at Andrews Park while others did not and emphasized that no one agreed totally on one place/location. Mayor Miller said when the north base location came forward, the discussions of having the three facilities (Senior Center, Aquatics Facility, and Multi-Sport Facility) together became a vision. Member Knudsen said Reaves Park and Ruby Grant Park were also discussed as possible senior center locations. She felt Reaves Park was ruled out due to the annual Medieval Fair and transportation issues during University sporting events. Likewise, she felt Ruby Grant Park was ruled out because it was too far west and Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART) currently does not include the area on its route(s).

Ex-Officio Sherman felt a senior center located at north base near the current YMCA would be all-inclusive facility. Member Knudsen said she has spoken to senior citizens and the majority does not want to share a pool with children, i.e., cold versus warmer water as well as chlorine versus salt water. Mayor Miller said there are many options that will be considered to include the seniors utilizing the pool at the YMCA but Member Knudsen felt a lot of the seniors do not like the idea of having to go from building to building. Chairman Hobson asked if golf carts could be utilized to get seniors from building to building if that option comes into fruition. Member Jewell asked whether or not the University could be asked to be a sponsor and set up activities and/or band events.

Mr. Bailey felt that the north base location would offer the most potential for opportunity for expansion and inclusion and Chairman Hobson agreed. Member Knudsen said while it is hard to please everyone, the City needs to gather information on what the citizens want and desire. Mayor Miller said that is what the City intends to do; however, it is a City project, paid for with tax dollars, and the City's role is very important. Ex-Officio Sherman said transportation will need to be addressed and more buses and better times will be needed. Member Knudsen said there may be financial constraints and felt prioritization of the project and phases will be important. Mayor Miller agreed and said a senior citizen visioning session will get all the right people together, to include experts and concerned citizens, to discuss the wants, needs and priorities. She felt everyone should keep their minds open and work together to stay on budget.

Chairman Hobson asked if anyone in the audience had any comments and Ms. Bette Maffucci, concerned citizen, said a lot had been covered today, but felt that transportation will be an issue. Ms. Maffucci suggested speaking with Aging Services and making certain they still plan to cook/feed the senior citizens each day if a new senior center is located to the north base area. She also suggested the Senior Center Ad Hoc, design team and City Staff tour the OKC Senior Wellness Center on Rockwell. Mr. Foster said he would contact a representative with the OKC Senior Wellness Center on Rockwell. Mr. Scott Mellgren, Ward 1 citizen, echoed that getting input from all

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Of the parties to determine the wants, needs, and prioritization will be critical. Mr. Sherman suggested prioritizing the design on the front end or having a design that will allow prioritizing at a later date. Member Terry asked the target date is for the Senior Center Visioning Session and Mayor Miller said late March or early April. She asked for volunteers from this Committee to work with her on the Senior Center Visioning Session and Chairman Hobson and Members Terry, Knudsen, and Jewell volunteered.

Mr. Foster suggested a few dates to the Committee and after discussion said to tentatively shoot for Friday, March 29, 2019. He said he would reach out to the potential speakers and get more information out as soon as possible to the Committee. Mayor Miller said she would invite the Councilmembers to the Senior Center Visioning Session.

Mr. Foster asked the Committee about future Senior Center Ad Hoc meetings; specifically, what days and times would work best for everyone. The Committee discussed and decided Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. would be best and the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, at 4:00 p.m.

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ITEM 5, being:

ADJOURNMENT

Member Jewell made the motion seconded by Member Knudsen to adjourn. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Hobson and Members Jewell, Knudsen, and Terry

NAY: None

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Passed and approved this 9th of March 2019

Gale Hobson  
Gale Hobson, Chairperson