

Loveland Senior Advisory Board
Loveland Public Library, Gertrude Scott Room
Minutes of May 6, 2015

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Board Members Present: Anne Brown, Elaine Brush, Julie Demaree, Doug East, Donita Fogle, Phoebe Hawley, Betty Herder, Kim Ferro, Marigail Jury, Jenn Nimmo, Carly Swanson (guest/intern), Marlene Quattrocchi and Richard Zlamany

Excused: Debby Ahrens and Linda Aron

Absent: Chauncey Taylor

Guests: Keven Aggers and Penn Street

Meeting called to order at 10:35 a.m.

Minutes of April 1, 2015 approved and accepted.

No city update today in Chauncey's absence.

Addition to today's agenda is an update from Keven Aggers, City of Loveland recreation manager. Keven has been with the city for 32 years. Elizabeth Anderson is their new director. In reference to the recent city council meeting, the foods sales tax issue and other proposals were discussed. As part of priority-based budgeting, the Parks and Recreation Department will implement some budget cuts (\$270,000) in 2016. City council is reprioritizing programs and where cuts can be made. Since the parks department does not generate revenue, they can easily absorb these cuts. The recreation department recovers 75-80% and pays for itself.

Open lands or golf courses will not be impacted as they are their own funding source.

Safety and mobility are used in prioritizing where cuts can be made. The North Lake Park swim beach is free and recovers no revenue and will be looked at closely.

At the first level of cuts, there will be a reduction in neighborhood park maintenance in 15-18 of the smaller parks which will entail weekly grass mowing, reduction in fall fertilizing and less sodding. Infrastructure maintenance and repairs will be reduced, and include restrooms, playgrounds and fencing. There will be a cut in part-time staff. Keven stated that some of these positions have not been filled in two years (such as

seasonal part-time employees) so will not have a huge impact. Public grounds maintenance at fire stations and sculpture parks will still be provided but not at the same intensity. There will be a reduction in athletic salaries, some awards will be eliminated, and the youth athletic grant program scholarships will be cut by \$10,000. Free sweat towels at the rec center will be eliminated, as well as food at department and commissioners meetings, department-wide employee recognition and printed materials, such as seasonal brochures and advertising changes. The eventual hope is for these publications to go 100% online, but it is probably not realistic.

The second year will be staff reorganizations. As employees retire, their positions may not be filled which will be a cost savings in salaries. There will be little to no impact to seniors during the first round of cuts. The second level of cuts will be more difficult.

Parks and Rec will keep their services affordable. Quality of life (police vs. parks) is a higher priority to the city and to its citizens. The city manager approached the proposed cuts fairly, and all departments will feel the same burden. \$2 million will be cut the first year; \$4 million in year two; and \$6 million in year three.

The bigger picture of transportation, housing and social services will be more painful when facing cuts. The food sales tax cut proposed may not happen entirely but more discussion needs to be had. His overall message is, as board or as individuals, to be thoughtful and on the watch. SAB may want to send a message to city council, and he encouraged us to think globally. SAB is welcome to share our opinions with city council, however, if any issue goes to vote, city staff cannot be involved. Citizens Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC) has asked to come and talk with SAB.

Our guest speaker, Penn Street, is the outreach coordinator for Ensign Skills Center. They have been in northern Colorado for over 14 years. Ensign was started by Denny Moyer, who had an early onset of macular degeneration. Upon arriving in Fort Collins from Chicago, she reached out to the Fort Collins Lions Club, and they welcomed her and her goal and provided her with seed money to get started. Ensign now has 19 employees; three of whom are full-time staff. They are a non-profit agency and not associated with any governmental programs. They receive grants, and are fee-based and do accept Medicare and Medicaid.

Ensign is the only nationally accredited low-vision agency in the state of Colorado. They have eye doctors, specially trained occupational therapists and orientation, mobility and adaptive technology instructors on staff. Their goal is for individuals to remain safe and independent regardless of their vision loss or age. They train folks on using adaptive devices such as canes, walkers and sticks. They offer prevention classes, such as Matter of Balance specific to vision loss, which the Aspen Club helped to create. This is being offered in Longmont and Fort Collins, and they hope to bring it to Loveland this summer. Dry eyes, light source and magnification were discussed. Initial eye appointments with eye doctors and OTs can last up to 90 minutes (usual exam and time seeing an eye doctor is 7 minutes).

Penn also educated us on different colored glasses, light perception, guide dogs, canes, magnifiers, audio books, talking libraries and the ability to rely on other senses in order to be safe. Their goal is to maximize what vision is still remaining by using many of these devices and skills, and she reiterated that all these skills can be taught.

She mentioned Blio, a service that downloads books at a reasonable cost. Free newspapers can be read and listened to live at a local and national level. They see up to five new patients per day in Fort Collins and Greeley. Littleton, Lakewood and Longmont have satellite offices, and on-sight appointments can be done in facilities, as well as follow up in people's homes. They offer support groups, and transportation is always the number one topic of discussion. They speak at groups, and there are grants available for Larimer County residents age 60+.

Jenn Nimmo is transferring to Colorado Springs and will be leaving SAB. We wish Jenn well in her new position.

Elaine has arranged for the city's van to bring Loveland folks to the Summit on Aging on May 7 and will be leaving Chilson at 7:45 a.m. The program at the Fort Collins Senior Center begins at 9 a.m. and lunch is included.

Kudos to Marigail and Phoebe who provided a wonderful overview of SAB's mission and goals at the city council study session in April. All in attendance agreed their presentation was well thought out, delivered and received by city council members.

Betty had two calls on the resource line. No other member comments due to lack of time.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Ferro
Recording Secretary

