

L.I.F.E. Advisory Board
April 27, 2017
Minutes

Board Members Present

Trish Parrack – Chairman
Kevin Newman, Vice Chair
Barbara Davis
Carmen Ulabarro
Pat Westwood

Board Members Absent

Roberta Murray, Secretary
Maxine Epstein

Staff Present

Karl Miller
Cheryl Bright
Victoria Arevalo

City Council Liaison: Mayor Andrew Friedberg - Absent

These minutes are not a verbatim record of the meeting and are intended only as a summary.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Trish Parrack, Committee Chairman, at 12:00 PM on April 27, 2017. After determining that a quorum was present Pat Westwood made a motion to approve the March 23, 2017 Board Meeting minutes. Several committee members seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Visitors Comments –

Connie Eicher visited the April 27, 2017 board meeting. Ms. Eicher stated that she had turned in her application to become part of the Bellaire L.I.F.E board as a member and was interested in seeing what a board meeting was like. Ms. Eicher is a long time Bellaire resident (>25yrs).

Ms. Eicher had several questions and made one proposal during the meeting which were responded to by a combination of staff members and L.I.F.E. board members.

Ms. Eichers' questions and comments were around:

- What was going to happen to Bellaire Town Square with the opening of Evelyn's Park. Cheryl Bright responded that the Town Square would still hold most of the city's community events while Evelyn's Park would be used more for cultural events.
- After a review of attendance at L.I.F.E events Ms. Eichers' asked how/why West University gets better attendance at their events. Several board members and Karl Miller responded with a variety of reasons including higher staffing levels and ownership of transportation conveyances. Karl also pointed out that Victoria Arevalo's' job was not solely to support L.I.F.E activities.
- The L.I.F.E committee having a booth at the July 4th festival. The purpose would be to engage potential participants about L.I.F.E events. Some members thought this was a good idea and some members were not interested in working the booth. Victoria stated that L.I.F.E could have a booth if desired. Karl stated that Victoria could provide the booth but committee members would need to work the booth. A decision was made to add this request to the next meetings discussion items.

Staff Comments/Report

Cheryl Bright, began by discussing the opening of Evelyn's Park on April, 22nd. The restaurant/café did not open on this day. Two to three days were mentioned as possible days for the restaurant to open. Cheryl mentioned that food trucks may be on site, times are unknown, to fill the gap till the restaurant/café opens. Cheryl also discussed various locations for parking if attending events at Evelyn's Park. Kevin Newman commented about the partial closure of Newcastle Street during the opening.

Cheryl Bright also discussed the opening of various city facilities for summer activities including the city pools.

Victoria Arevalo discussed the move to Bellaire Methodist Church from City Hall for L.I.F.E activities and some of the challenges this has created. The church has been very cooperative and most of the issues experienced seem to be a function of getting activity attendees to the right rooms. Victoria is working to ensure that signs directing activity participants to the right locations are strategically located to better address getting folks to the right rooms.

Victoria Arevalo also commented that activity participation has been a bit slower than normal.

Trip departures from the church parking lot were a bit confusing when multiple events were occurring. This created some issues but everyone ultimately got on the right bus.

Victoria also commented on 2 staff members that are helping her with the transition to Bellaire Methodist Church: Danae Green and Grant Hayes.

Old Business

Victoria reviewed attendance numbers for trips and events for March, 2017 and April, 2017, and submitted the following attendance data:

March Activities

Monday Bridge	72
Wed. Crafts & Conversation	24
Friday Bridge	60
Bingo	21
Games Day & Chair Volleyball	18
Men's/Women's Club	8
Bunco	9
Movie " Me Before You"	31
Rodeo Luncheon	29

Trips

March

Trip to Hempstead	16
Trip to Houston	17

April Activities

Monday Bridge	34
Wed. Crafts & Conversation	13
Friday Bridge	12
Bingo	0
Games Day	0
Men's/Women's Club	0
Bunco	0

April

Trip to Houston	18
Trip to LaGrange – Signed up	28

Only issue reported with trips was that one participant stated they could not find the Methodist Church. Victoria stated that maps and directions were provided and that participant had her phone number.

New Business

Trish Parrack reminded the Board members that the next meeting would be on May 25, 2017.

Victoria reminded the Board members of the May 1st Proclamation for Older Americans Month recognition to be held during the City Council meeting at 6PM. Bellaire L.I.F.E board members were requested to attend this meeting to show their support.

Karl mentioned that the results of the City Survey should be available the week of May 1, 2017.

Board Comments

Trish asked for board comments and both Kevin Newman and Carmen Ulabarro provided input.

Kevin requested information on how to get items on the next agenda. The desired addition to the next meeting agenda was a discussion around the Bellaire L.I.F.E board moving into the future and its' significance and whether it should become part of the Parks Board. Kevin also wanted to discuss how to increase attendance at L.I.F.E activities. At this point of the meeting is where Guest Connie Eicher inquired as to how West University got better attendance at sponsored events. Please see Guest Comments section of these minutes.

Carmen Ulabarro ask to include in the next meeting agenda a discussion on how to expand activities to include a more diverse array of activities suited for people 55 and over. Cheryl Bright mentioned that looking at expanding activities could be evaluated. Karl stated that there are many activities not sponsored through L.I.F.E that are available to more active 55 and over community members.

Cheryl mentioned that at one point there was some resistance from L.I.F.E participants around combining classes.

Additions requested to May 25th Meeting Agenda:

- Discussion around L.I.F.E having at booth at 4th of July Celebration
- Discussion around L.I.F.E board as an entity in the future and its relevance.
- Discussion around L.I.F.E board possible being combined with the Parks Board versus being a separate entity
- Discussion around expanding activities to include events focused on more active target L.I.F.E audience

Adjournment

Trish Parrack called for the meeting to be adjourned at 1:00PM. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Pat Westwood and seconded by Barbara Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen Ulabarro, (acting in lieu of Roberta Murray)
L.I.F.E. Advisory Board Meeting