

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE PETITION TO PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD FOR A SENIOR BUILDING AND OPPORTUNITY TO PETITION THE COLLEGE STATION CITY COUNCIL

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Aim: (a) To discuss the possibility of building a Senior Center
(b) To meet with the City Council about providing the facility

B. Objectives:

- (1) To explain recent history of the need for a Senior Center
- (2) To summarize Senior programs
- (3) To project future senior growth
- (4) To describe the proposed Senior Center
- (5) To describe benefits to the City of College Station

II. OBJECTIVE 1: TO EXPLAIN RECENT HISTORY FOR A SENIOR CENTER

1. Senior Advisory Committee proposed to convert the Parks and Recreation Headquarters to the Senior Center when the new Administration building has been completed
2. Architectural plans were drawn and room use was suggested
3. The Parks and Recreation Headquarters would make an excellent Senior Center, but has some limitations
4. The Parks and Recreation Board supported the proposal on January 13, 2004

III. OBJECTIVE 2: TO SUMMARIZE SENIOR PROGRAMS

1. Senior services presently are headquartered in the EXIT Teen Center with coordinator in Parks and Recreation Headquarters
2. Computer education classes, many Senior meetings and Senior games are held in the Teen Center
3. Cooperative Exploring History Lunch/Lecture programs with the Historical Preservation Committee are held at the College Station Conference Center
4. More than 40 "Xtra Education" classes for Seniors are held at the Teen Center per year
5. The Computer Club for Seniors meets in the College Station Utilities Center Training Room on Graham Road and in the Center for Regional Services in Bryan
6. Seniors participate in the lunch program offered at the Lincoln Center
7. Day trips are planned for seniors throughout the year

IV. OBJECTIVE 3: TO PROJECT FUTURE SENIOR GROWTH

1. College Station
 - a. 55+ in 2000 at 4792
 - b. 60+ in 2000 at 3381, having increased 70% since 1990
2. Brazos County
 - a. 60+ in 2000 at 13,593 having increased 26% since 1990
 - b. 65+ in 2000 at 10,223 and is expected to increase to 79% by 2020 or 18,329 and more than three times by 2040 with projections of 32,555

3. The population numbers of senior residents in this area are expected to increase markedly in the next two decades with the aging of “Baby Boomers”
4. Some Senior programs such as the Computer Club, draw participants from at least 50 miles away

V. OBJECTIVE 4: TO DESCRIBE THE PROPOSED SENIOR CENTER

1. 20,000 sq.ft. or a square 141 ft. building
2. Senior Center should include:
 - A reception area/lobby including a “Senior Information Center”
 - Offices for staff and a reception area
 - Meeting rooms to accommodate small and large groups for classes, meetings and games
 - A quiet room for reading and conversation
 - A full kitchen, dining area and coffee bar
 - Room for computers and support equipment
 - Adequate room for storage
 - Exercise/weight room
 - Therapeutic pool
 - Restrooms and dressing/locker rooms
 - A single floor structure is preferred
 - Center for health education, screening and vaccines
 - Fully indoor and outdoor handicap accessibility
 - Covered outdoor patio with tables for picnics and games
 - Indoor and outdoor walking and jogging paths
 - Ample parking with covered overhang entrances for inclement weather (loading and unloading)
 - Building designed for future expansion (possibly second floor)
3. Cost

a. Building at \$150 sq. ft.	\$ 3,000,000
b. Parking lot at \$2.75 sq. ft.	250,000
c. Contents	<u>1,750,000</u>
	\$ 5,000,000
4. Hope to have the building completed in four years
5. An existing facility could also be considered to meet the future needs of seniors

VI. OBJECTIVE 5: TO DESCRIBE BENEFITS TO THE CITY OF COLLEGE STATION

1. A building that will add prestige to the City Center
2. A center where more individuals and people of widely varied heritage and backgrounds can meet and participate in activities
3. A structure where Senior programs may function in one location
4. A source of Senior information for the Brazos Valley
5. A building where Seniors would have first priority on space

6. A larger base of people who could support City initiatives and other City activities
7. A location where personnel from Texas A&M University can enrich educational experiences of our citizens
8. A place where some of the space pressure for meetings can be eased if the Conference Center and Administration building on Texas Avenue are sold

VII. SUMMARY

1. The Parks and Recreation Headquarters has been considered for a Senior Center
2. Presently, Senior programs are held in widely diverse locations
3. Senior population in College Station and Brazos County are projected to increase rapidly in the next two decades
4. The proposed building will provide many educational, recreational and physical opportunities for our citizens in the future
5. The Seniors associated with this building will have a significantly positive benefit to our population and initiatives of the City of College Station
6. **FINALLY, WE WISH TO HAVE THE SUPPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD TO HAVE THIS PETITION PRESENTED TO THE COLLEGE STATION CITY COUNCIL.**