



Senior Center Commission Agenda
Thursday, November 19, 2020
Electronic Meeting - 4 PM
ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM

Electronic Meeting

(Pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8)

An electronic meeting is being held because a meeting in person is impossible or impractical due to concerns for the health and safety of Commission members, staff and the public presented by COVID-19.

You can participate in the meeting and can comment on an agenda item by going to <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlodOmpqT4vGtaRaVh5E7HZfSP1ghTHeFmZ> via the internet to visit the Zoom meeting's registration page and submit the required information.

Once approved, you will receive an email message with a link to join the meeting. If you are asked for a meeting or webinar ID, enter the ID number found in the email. A meeting password may also be included in the email. Enter the password when prompted.

If you have no computer or smartphone, or a computer without a microphone, you may call in by telephone by dialing (312) 626-6799. When prompted, enter the meeting or webinar ID. The ID number for this meeting is: 965 3017 5502.

Once connected, you may dial *9 to "raise your hand," letting the meeting host know you would like to speak. Providing comments in person is not an option.

1. **Introductions/Welcome**—*S. Finlayson*
2. **Minutes (August 20, 2020)**
3. **Public Discussion for items not on the agenda**
4. **Operational Overview**—*Staff*
 - ❖ **Senior Center operations update**

If you will need disability related accommodations to participate in this program or event, please contact LaTasha DeLoach at latasha-deloch@iowa-city.org or 319-356-5225. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

5. **Commission Discussion— *S. Finlayson***
 - ❖ **Senior Center Master Plan discussion**
 - ❖ **Executive Committee election discussion**
 - ❖ **Future Agenda Items**
6. **Adjourn**

****Next meeting is Thursday, December 17 at 4 PM ****

Meeting Packet Contents:

1. Agenda: Thursday, November 19, 2020
2. Minutes: Senior Center Commission, Thursday, August 20, 2020
3. Community correspondence

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MINUTES
SENIOR CENTER COMMISSION
August 20, 2020
ELECTRONIC Formal Meeting
ZOOM MEETING Platform

Members Present: Lorraine Dorfman, Zach Goldsmith, Angela McConville,
George Nelson, Paula Vaughan

Members Absent: Linda Vogel, Scott Finlayson

Staff Present: LaTasha DeLoach, Kristin Kromray

Others Present: None

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impractical due to concerns for the health and safety of council members, staff,
and the public presented by COVID-19.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by McConville at 4:12 PM.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 16, 2020 MEETING:

**Motion: To accept the minutes from the July 16, 2020 meeting. Motion
carried on a vote of 5/0. Vaughn/Goldsmith**

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

None.

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW:

DeLoach reported the September program guide will be available next week. She highlighted a handful of programs including 1840-1850's buildings in Iowa City, a virtual ice cream social for grandparent's day, "So You Think You Want to Talk about Race" book discussion, and programming for Latin American Heritage month.

The consultants working on the building assessment continue to assess the building and meet with staff. DeLoach believes in the next few months she will be looking for input from commissioners.

DeLoach thanked the Commission for their letter of gratitude for the Senior Center staff.

Nelson stated that he did not agree with the letter. He feels staff is doing a minimum of their jobs now that the Senior Center building is closed, and programming is virtual, and they are not doing anything beyond what is expected of them. He stated he worked at the University of Iowa and no one ever wrote him a thank you letter for doing his job so therefore he would not extend that to Senior Center staff. Additionally, he felt that he was not consulted on the letter. Moreover, he feels decisions regarding the Senior Center are not asked of the Commission and DeLoach makes executive decisions and does not ask for the approval of the Commission. He was also upset that the Commission was not consulted in the decision to extend Senior Center membership expiration dates out two months. He feels the policies the Commission were asked to approve in previous months were only to protect the Senior Center from being litigated. He said the previous coordinator had shown him the policy handbook at one point and he believes her only motivation was to keep the Senior Center from being sued. He noted that he still feels this way but coordinator DeLoach did seem to have more interests. He is also disappointed in the City's response to the storm collection and opposes having to bundle debris and cut tree limbs to a certain length. Lastly, he noted if the proposed renovations to the Senior Center are very expensive perhaps the building should be in a different location.

McConville asked if Nelson would like his name removed from the letter. He responded that he would.

McConville stated as an employee of North Liberty she could speak to her experience during the pandemic and noted that all procedures and normalcy were gone. She noted it is hard to work from home during this time and that there was nothing easy about it. Additionally, she noted her appreciation for Senior Center staff.

Dorfman said she felt the letter was very nice and she agreed it was a positive way to thank staff. Dorfman also stated the role of the Commission is as an advisory board, not as an executive board. McConville noted the purpose of the Senior Center Commission can be found on the city's website (<https://www.icgov.org/city-government/boards/seniorcenter-commssion>). McConville added another of the role of Commissioners is to speak about the Senior Center to City Council, the Board of Supervisors, and the public about the Senior Center.

Vaughn thought the letter was very well written and agreed with it. Goldsmith asked Nelson that even if he did not completely agree with how everything is done at the Senior Center wouldn't he like to extend some kindness to the Senior Center staff during this difficult time. Nelson reiterated he would not like his name on the letter.

Nelson raised concerns about the City's budget and if this was the right time for the City to spend money on the Senior Center's building plan. DeLoach noted that things could change in the future but at the moment the City is moving forward with getting a master plan together for the Senior Center building. Currently there is CIP money in place for some renovations. Depending on the cost of all renovations it will likely take many years to fulfill all priorities and changes to the building. DeLoach also noted that she is choosing to stay optimistic during this time. She wants to assist staff in moving forward with plans because she believes it is the best way to be a positive leader.

Nelson noted he does not think he will renew his Senior Center membership since he cannot go to the building currently. He does not think the virtual programs will be good long term and that there are seniors who are unable to afford internet and devices. McConville noted there are other area resources to help people without internet. Additionally, she noted the Senior Center calling members at the beginning of the pandemic and having phone in ability on virtual programs.

Nelson stated he had received two different requests for absentee ballots. Vaughn suggested he reach out to the county auditor's office for clarification. DeLoach said she thought it would be a good programming idea to have someone from the auditor's office do a program regarding the upcoming election.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Commissioners asked that an update on the consults be added to the agenda each month.

McConville asked if the Senior Center could send out information about the Solarize Johnson County initiative.

Motion: To Adjourn.

Senior Center Commission Attendance Record

Name	Term Expires	9/19/19	10/17/19	11/21/19	12/19/19	1/16/20	2/20/20	3/19/20	4/16/20	5/22/20	6/18/20	7/16/20	8/20/20
Kenn Bowen	12/31/19	NM	NM	NM	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lorraine Dorfman	12/31/21	NM	NM	NM	X	X	X	NM	X	X	NM	X	X
Robert (Scott) Finlayson	12/31/20	NM	NM	NM	X	X	X	NM	X	X	NM	X	O/E
Zach Goldsmith	12/31/21	NM	NM	NM	X	X	X	NM	X	X	NM	X	X
Angela McConville	12/31/21	NM	NM	NM	X	X	X	NM	X	X	NM	O/E	X
George Nelson	12/31/22	--	--	--	--	X	X	NM	X	X	NM	X	X
Paula Vaughan	12/31/22	--	--	--	--	O/E	X	NM	X	X	NM	X	X
Linda Vogel	12/31/20	--	--	--	--	X	X	NM	X	X	NM	X	X
Hiram (Rick) Webber	12/31/19	NM	NM	NM	O/E	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Key: X = Present
O = Absent
O/E = Absent/Excused
NM = No meeting
-- = Not a member

November 13, 2020

To: LaTasha DeLoach, Senior Center Coordinator, LaTasha-DeLoach@iowa-city.org
and Senior Center Commission
Re: Senior Center Planning Alternatives Presentation and Survey

The building at 28 South Linn Street, the current location of the Iowa City Senior Center, was built in 1904. It was the central Post Office until 1975 and became the home of the Iowa City Senior Center in 1981. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. When a person enters from Linn Street they enter the beautiful, grand historic lobby. The current Linn Street entrance is a welcoming place with a receptionist, windows, coffee and tea, tables, magazines and newspapers. We feel that closing this historic entrance would be a huge loss for everyone entering the building.

Survey Comments

- This an awkward time to conduct a survey, because people might wish to visit the Senior Center to analyze and understand the floor plans.
- It was frustrating to have to answer every question, even those for which we had no opinion. A “No opinion” should have been included as well as a place for comments.
- Comparing the three alternatives was difficult and frustrating because, for example, the doors to rooms were not always indicated. Knowing where you enter and exit a room is necessary to understanding the space.

Thoughts, Comments, Suggestions

- Reorganizing the space by function, fitness on ground level, is a good idea.
- Restoring the historic architecture in First Floor Lounge and Stair is consistent with preserving the character of the building
- Please do not reduce the size of the Exercise Room on the ground level. That space is often too small for the more than 25 people attending Fit4Life. In Alternative 3 could two of the proposed Fitness Studio spaces be combined as needed for classes with more than 15 people? Moving the Cardio and Weight to the former billiards area might make that possible.
- There is no car parking on Washington Street. Perhaps encourage and allow the SEATS bus and taxis good access in the alley at the ramp to the 1st floor.
- Promote use of the alley ramp for members wanting to enter on the 1st floor. That is a way of making the entry to the building ADA compliant.
- Many members use the Iowa Avenue parking ramp and the elevator to reach the areas they use, including reception.
- Repair the ceiling in the Mezzanine closet.
- Given the budget problems and threatened cutbacks in the past, it is hard to imagine that the Senior Center will staff 2 reception desks, as shown in alternatives 1 and 3.

Thank you for your time,

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Sue Ellen K Otto sue-otto@uiowa.edu

Judy Buddenbaum

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Reference

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TheCenterFacilityPlan> - Survey, closes Friday, Nov 13, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAt6RALfax4&feature=youtu.be> – “Planning Alternatives” , 26-minute video presentation