



SOUTHWEST EDMONTON SENIORS ASSOCIATION (SWESA)



GOVERNMENT ATTENDEES AT SWESA'S SENIORS FAIR IN SEPTEMBER 2012 (FROM L TO R):

JAMES RAJOTTE, MP

FRED HORNE, PROVINCIAL MINISTER OF HEALTH & SENIORS

DAVID FABER, CHAIR, SWESA

LINDA SLOAN, CITY COUNCILLOR

BRYAN ANDERSON, CITY COUNCILLOR

MATT JENEROUX, MLA

A grassroots idea that's grown rapidly

From its inception in 2011, the SouthWest Edmonton Seniors Association (SWESA) has grown rapidly from a handful of people on a Steering Committee to a registered non profit association with a full board of Directors.

Representatives from the municipal, provincial and federal government have all spoken in favour of SWESA's mission to respond to the need for social, cultural and recreational programming for people over 55

years old living in southwest Edmonton.

Become a member or friend of SWESA to receive this newsletter and notice of future events and meetings.



CULTURAL INTERESTS



SOCIAL INTERESTS



RECREATIONAL INTERESTS

First SWESA fair a grand success

On September 9, 2012, more than 400 people attended the first annual SWESA Seniors Fair at the William Lutsky YMCA.

It was a great opportunity to introduce SWESA to neighborhoods in southwest Edmonton and to ask people over 54 years old what they would like SWESA to develop - what programs and services would best match their social, cultural and recreational interests.

Richard Perry, SWESA Vice Chair and the Director of the fair, pointed out that over 20,000 people over 54 years old, live in southwest Edmonton.

“There is no centrally located senior’s centre in the southwest which can act as a focal point for seniors programming.

Thirty eight exhibitors filled the hall. A wide range of businesses showcased services for seniors and non profit organizations, such as other seniors centres, provided fair participants with ideas on the range of programming that could be developed in the southwest.

After walking through the exhibit hall, fair participants were invited to complete a short survey on their interests for future programming in the southwest. They were also asked about the need for a building where seniors could gather to attend these programs and socialize.



FIRST ANNUAL SWESA FAIR



LINDA SLOAN, CITY COUNCILLOR, SPOKE ABOUT HER INVOLVEMENT SUPPORTING OTHER SENIORS CENTRES & ASKED TO SEE THE FAIR SURVEY RESULTS.

FAIR PARTICIPANTS KINDLY POSED FOR PHOTOS

(PHOTOGRAPHERS: ROB AGOSTINIS & SHERRI HENDERSON)

Special Public Meeting marks milestone for SWESA

On November 29, 2012 a Special Public Meeting was held. Attendees were eligible to vote if they met the criteria for SWESA membership:

1. 55 years or older
2. live in southwest Edmonton

SWESA transitions from Steering Committee to Board of Directors

Eligible voters passed a motion for the Steering Committee to become the SWESA Board. This is an important step towards becoming a more formal planning body to work with governments, industry and partners.

SWESA adds 3 new Directors

Existing members of the Steering Committee became members of the Board and three new members were voted in, their names having arisen from an earlier call for nominations from the southwest community.

New members are:

Barbara Olsen

Elnora Hibbert

David Nichiporik

SWESA appoints a Membership Director

An additional Director, Phil Brooks was appointed in December to oversee Membership.



JEAN

AT THE SWESA FAIR, I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE ENERGY AND INTERESTS OF PEOPLE WHO FILLED OUT OUR SENIORS FAIR SURVEY, A GROUP THAT RANGED IN AGE FROM 55 TO 95.



BRENT & BRUCE

AS WE COMPILED THE SURVEY RESULTS IT BECAME CLEAR THAT PEOPLE BELIEVE WE NEED A CENTRALLY LOCATED BUILDING TO PROVIDE THIS PROGRAMMING AND ENABLE PEOPLE TO FEEL THEY HAVE A PLACE THAT MAKES IT EASY TO SOCIALIZE.

(ALL SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE)



REG & JOAN

I THINK SWESA IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK. A GATHERING PLACE FOR SENIORS WOULD BE A GREAT WAY FOR PEOPLE TO BUILD SUPPORTIVE FRIENDSHIPS AND HAVE FUN.

What happened in 2012?

Nov 2011: Steering Committee formed from a community meeting with TRAC and City of Edmonton

Mar 2012: SWESA name approved, website and email established

Apr 2012: Applied for city grant to host fair; applied for federal grant

May 2012: Public meeting to approve bylaws

Jun 2012: SWESA approved as a Society

Aug 2012: Formally recognized SWESA Board with Interim Directors from Steering Committee

Sept 2012: Hosted Seniors Fair to gather more public input.

Oct 2012: Nominations received for additional Directors.

Nov 2012: Public meeting to formalize transition to Board and receive new Directors.

What happens next in 2013?

The Board plans include:

Applying for a city grant to support more formalized planning.

Developing a business plan.

Increasing awareness of SWESA.

Increasing membership of SWESA.

Generating a volunteer roster.

Beginning SWESA programs with workshops on popular requests (e.g. protecting against fraud).

Launching a new website with expanded information and resources.



DAVID FABER

2013 WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT YEAR FOR SWESA in COMMUNICATING THE NEEDS OF SENIORS TO MUNICIPAL, PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF BUILDING A SENIORS CENTRE in SOUTHWEST EDMONTON.



RICHARD PERRY

THE 2012 FAIR WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AND WE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OF PARTICIPATING COMPANIES AND SENIORS ORGANIZATIONS. IN THE EVALUATIONS PEOPLE WERE PLEASED WITH THE QUALITY OF EXHIBITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS AND LOOK FORWARD TO BEING PART OF THE NEXT FAIR.



JOE ROBERTS

WE HAVE A LOT OF EXCITING WORK THIS YEAR FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP AND WE'RE GRATEFUL TO COMPANIES THAT HAVE STEPPED UP TO DONATE THEIR EXPERTISE AND TIME TO HELP A NEW ORGANIZATION LIKE SWESA.

NEW SWESA BOARD



CONTACT US, YOU CAN:

1. BECOME A FULL OR ASSOCIATE MEMBER
2. BECOME A FRIEND
3. VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME IN AN AREA THAT INTERESTS YOU
4. FIND RESOURCES, NEWS AND INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS AND EVENTS.
5. TELL US YOUR IDEAS FOR SWESA

THE SWESA BOARD MEMBERS FROM L TO R FRONT ROW: BARBARA OLSEN, DAVID FABER (CHAIR), ELNORA HIBBERT (SECRETARY), RICHARD PERRY (VICE-CHAIR/ SENIORS FAIR); FROM L TO R BACK ROW: PHIL BROOKS (MEMBERSHIP), GLEN WONG (FORMER BOARD ADVISOR), EARL BUBIS (CITY OF EDMONTON SWESA ADVISOR), IDA RICHARDS (GUEST), JOE ROBERTS (COMMUNICATIONS), DAVID NICHIPORIK (TREASURER), LAURA SHEWCHUK (CITY OF EDMONTON SWESA ADVISOR).

SWESA WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK TWO PEOPLE WHO DID A LOT FOR SWESA IN 2012 AND HAVE SINCE MOVED ON TO OTHER PROJECTS:

BRUCE DUNCAN

GLEN KISSICK

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