

Daily Tidings 11/21/17

Words matter

Ashland's mayor and council maintain support of a bureaucratic process initiated by the Parks and Recreation director and commissioners, officials hired or elected to provide "expertise" in managing parks and recreation but lacking expertise in social services — as evidenced by the negative effects their plan has had on citizens' well-being. There is a persistent belief that Parks and Recreation has authority over the Senior Center.

Resolution 2007-14 repealed previous resolutions, made the Parks and Recreation Department "responsible for facilitation of all senior programs and activities" and gave them "the authority to create an advisory committee for the senior program, if necessary." It did not give them managerial control.

Facilitators guide and advise. They are not to exert power, give directions or order actions. They are not managers.

Not only has Parks and Recreation's reorganization plan damaged the Senior Center and the well-being of our citizens, but if my reading is correct, such control has not been authorized.

Hopefully the mayor and council will seek the city attorney's advice on this apparent misinterpretation of Resolution 2007-14. It seems Parks and Recreation has not only done harm to Ashland senior citizens but also may have overstepped its authority.

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