

Senior Advisory Board

March 7 meeting

After careful consideration, the Senior Advisory Board is recommending that a new Senior Center be located at the Civic Center complex. This would require either an addition to one of the current buildings or a new building nearby. The recommendation, including a request for \$50,000 for a conceptual plan, has been sent to City Manager Mark Watson and City Council. At Watson's request it is also being sent to the Council Budget Committee for inclusion in the new budget.

The Senior Center is now in leased property on Emory Valley Road in the old Daniel Arthur Rehabilitation Center building. The move to this building was considered temporary at the time. The structure is very old and the cost of adequate renovation very large. Having a Senior Center in the Civic Center complex would allow the expanding senior population easy access to the library, indoor swimming pool, gym, walking trail, and other amenities of the downtown area. It would provide enhanced utilization of current Civic Center space. The conceptual plan would include suggestions for building placement, parking, ingress and egress from the Turnpike, and other considerations to enhance the usability of the area.

Other available sites were carefully considered, including the current building, owned by Anderson County; the Oak Ridge School Administration and Preschool building on New York Avenue, which reverts to the City if the schools don't use it; and the former YWCA building, now in court-ordered receivership. Among the criteria considered for site selection were city ownership, central location, road and building access, parking, proximity to other facilities, outside walking/play space, cost, current condition, and availability. The Civic Center was chosen as the site best meeting the criteria.

~ Marty Adler-Jasny, Observer