

OLLI Special Interest Group, Day Trippers, Meeting
(Subcommittee of Curriculum Committee)
OLLI at UNT Office, 1716 Scripture Street, Denton
June 10, 2019

Present: Diana Mason, Raymond Pahler, Larry Wilson, Rebecca Fridley, Stephanie Reinke,
Diane Hoemeke, Andrea Tuckness
(Debbie Pahler also sat in on the meeting)

Absent: Lynn Milner

Guest: Birona Aswad

Diana called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Prior to the meeting, Ray contacted Premier Transportation of Dallas for information regarding bus services for day trips. Birona Aswad attended this meeting as a representative of Premier Transportation to share information and services provided by the company.

Birona shared the following:

- Premier Transportation works with senior groups, including groups at Robson Ranch.
- Premier can help customize trips as well as offer their own arranged trips.
- Premier prefers to pick up, at most, at two locations per trip. In the event of multiple pick up locations, shuttles have been used to transport groups from a location to the bus. Use of shuttles does increase the cost. Frequently, people drive to bus pick-up locations.
- Mini buses can be an option for multiple pick-up locations. Birona suggested a full-size motor coach for trips outside the metroplex; mini buses for shorter trips.
- Two weeks out on day trips should be enough time to make necessary arrangements.
- Premier does keep in contact with clients to check on the number of people signed up for the trip, but the company is clear on the issue of no refunds. Cost, per individual, may change depending on the number of people going on the trip.
- During the week, as opposed to weekends, the cost of day trips decreases—ticket prices for events are frequently less.
- Premier covers liability; Premier does not market trips to others.
- Premier can provide a guide on trips, not just the driver. Bus holds 55, plus 1 (guide).
- Premier can arrange for lunches—can even negotiate prices and a menu.
- If a scooter is needed, the bus company needs to know in advance but can provide this.

Diana thanked Birona for coming.

Questions and responses included:

- The contract arrangement with the bus company is not with the members of the committee.
- Diana cautioned about duplicating the bus trip planned by OLLI at UNT each semester that is independent of the day trippers, and with those planned by Robson.
- Stephanie said OLLI could periodically email members about the day trips. Eventually, the Day Trippers Committee will be responsible for communication about the program and

communicating with the Day Trippers. OLLI office will help with sharing the email addresses for this purpose. The OLLI at UNT catalog will continue to include information about day trips.

- If a bus is contracted for an event and if the bus capacity is not filled as the trip day gets closer, the trip could be opened to other groups or to individuals, non-OLLI members.
- Stephanie suggested this committee select a trip and ask Premier to follow up with a custom trip with details including estimated cost.

Other discussion:

- Stephanie urged this committee to have as much information about day trips as possible for the fall catalog, by July 1.
- There needs to be a way to market the Day Trippers for more participants.
- Stephanie suggested trying one bus trip a semester but not an overnigher.
- Suggested trips included: The Dallas Aquarium, the State Fair of Texas in Dallas, Howe, Eisenhower Birthplace in Denison and Sam Rayburn Library and Home in Bonham, Ft. Worth Stockyards at Christmas, Fredericksburg, Austin, Johnson City.

At 1:55 p.m., the meeting was adjourned for the day. Since there was important business that needs timely attention, it was decided to meet again on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at OLLI/UNT office.