



Letters to the Editor, Aug. 11, 2017 Assault on seniors

The Tidings article Wednesday about Tuesday's meeting was very distressing. The department's priorities were clearly stated by Mr. Black and they are simply inappropriate and misguided.

The senior program has been so successful for 43 years and so appreciated by those it serves precisely because it is not run like a business. All of a sudden, the Parks Department's financial woes are laid at the feet of this small segment of its operations. The attempt to make it pay for itself is really nothing more than an assault on our most vulnerable citizens.

The suggestion for new programs such as overnight trips is not a response to community wishes, but a way to balance the department's budget on the backs of our senior citizens. And who among the seniors served by the program has asked for it to become "multi-generational?" It's a program for *seniors!*

The unanimous condemnation the proposal met from those citizens and the subcommittee's vote to ignore their concerns makes it clear that the public meeting had no

purpose except to let Parks and Recreation say they had “consulted” with the population their actions are going affect.

I find Black's insensitivity and narrow-minded concern for the bottom line above all else to be so out of keeping with the community values of the Ashland I know. If he really wants to serve the public, he should listen to those voices he heard Tuesday, and start again, with a priority on doing what's best for the citizens served, not pretend that gutting a successful program can masquerade as the best thing for his constituents. The citizenry sees through that. We're not that stupid. If he doesn't care to serve the public, he should find another job.

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