

## **Montgomery Township Senior Committee Meeting Minutes**

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Date: September 11, 2013

Location: Montgomery Township Building, Community Room B

Present: Helen Haag, Chair, Peg Azarian, Patricia Forbes, Larry Gregan, Marian Pinkerton, Richard Roller, Ralph Schurr, Jacqueline Volk, and Ginny Bailey.  
Guests John Nolan and Diane Nolan were also present.

Chair Helen Haag called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and introduced Montgomery Township Manager, Larry Gregan.

Larry introduced Ginny Bailey as the new liaison to the Senior Committee and that the Recreation Office would like to work more closely with the Committee. He spoke briefly about Laura Duff leaving to pursue a Masters Degree and thanked Richard Roller for his participation in the Montgomery 300 Anniversary Committee and Ralph Schurr for his participation on the committee planning the new Community and Recreation Center.

Larry was asked about the status of the Recreation Center and said the Township and the Committee are currently in the design phase of the building. They hope to have the design done by December and out for bids in January. Construction would begin in the first quarter of 2014 and take about 1 year to complete. The Township would like to hire a director for the center later in 2014 so someone is in place when the facility opens. The next steps are to approve the technology and file 2 grant applications to help with funding.

There were no minutes from the June 2013 meeting available so Helen gave a synopsis of the meeting from her notes:

- The Summer Concert Series was discussed and who would be available to attend to distribute information.
- New brochures were needed for the box of information.
- Ralph reported on the Community Center meeting he attended.
- The Medicare seminar with Bob Sykes was discussed and will be held on Thursday, October 17th as part of the Baby Boomers & Beyond series.
- Helen thanked Rich for his presentation.

### Public Comment

John Nolan thanked the Senior Committee for attorney Rosemary Ferrino's presentation. He found it very helpful and has contacted her for advice on personal matters.

## **Old Business:**

### Summer Concert Series

Unfortunately, this was not a good summer to hand out information – over half of the concerts were held indoors due to the heat or rainy weather and, if the concert was held outdoors, the box of information was not available. Ginny showed the Committee a new, sturdier box on wheels, purchased by the Recreation Office, for the brochures and information and how the information was organized by subject matter.

### Medicare Seminar

Bob Sykes will be at the Township Building on Thursday, October 17th at 1:00 pm as part of the Baby Boomers & Beyond series. Flyers were distributed and will be handed out at the Autumn Festival.

Peg Azarian raised a concern about the Senior Committee being disbanded and Larry assured her that no one outside the Committee could disband it without action from the Board of Supervisors. Ginny mentioned that the Recreation Office was open to suggestions from the Committee and trying to be more diverse in its programs to include seniors (for example, AARP Driver Safety courses, Chair Yoga and Zumba Gold). They also wanted to partner with the Senior Committee for the Baby Boomers & Beyond series and other events.

## **New Business:**

### Report of the Park & Recreation Meeting

Peg attended the Park & Recreation Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 14th and reported the following items discussed:

- Progress of the Recreation Center.
- Friendship Park (off of Hartman Road) is being developed by the Cutler Group will have a walking trail and softball and soccer fields that will be available to residents.
- Incident at the Bark Park where one dog was attacked by another dog. Larry said the Township was not liable and there are signs posted regarding the rules of using the Bark Park. He said the police have investigated the incident. A suggestion was made at the Park Board meeting for residents to register their dogs so a swipe card system could be used but Larry said the Bark Park really needed a 'Friends of the Bark Park' committee to oversee its use and up-keep.

### Community Center Update

Ralph reported that the minutes and information are available on the Township website and passed around plans for outside the center. One change made to the plans will put the community room down on the first floor and the fitness center on the second floor which will make the community room more ideal for concerts if they have to be moved indoors. A 'senior room' will be part of the center and available as a game room, meeting room or workshops close to a kitchen and restrooms. There will be restrooms outside the center that could be accessed from the community room and a specific space for the book mobile with a sitting area is planned. Marian asked if there could be more parking spots designated for handicapped parking and both Larry and Ralph made a note of the request.

#### PA House Bill 658

Ralph reported that the bill had been passed by all committees and the House and is waiting for a vote by the State Senate. The bill offers property tax relief for residents in exchange for working with students in the public schools. The bill is currently with the Senate Finance Committee and has Senator Greenleaf's support.

#### Autumn Festival

The Senior Committee will have a table to distribute brochures and information. Helen asked for volunteers and Peg, Pat, Marian, Ralph and Jackie will be at the table. There was a question why North Penn Abington Hospital does not participate.

#### Senior Resource Guide

Changes to the Guide were reviewed and Ginny will make the changes and make copies for the Autumn Festival and Senior Information racks in the Township Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next meeting – Wednesday, November 13th at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by  
Ginny Bailey