

Montgomery Township Senior Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14, 2015

Location: Montgomery Township Building, Community Room A

Present: Peg Azarian, Pat Forbes, Helen Haag, Jeff McDonnell, Marian Pinkerton, Richard Roller, Ralph Schurr, Jacqueline Volk, and Ginny Bailey. Also present, Kelsey McMeans, Montgomery Township Public Information Coordinator.

Reorganization Meeting

Staff liaison Ginny Bailey called the Reorganization Meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Nominations for Chairman

The Committee voted unanimously to have Peg Azarian serve another term as Chairman of the Senior Committee.

Nominations for Vice-Chairman

Newly re-elected Chairman Peg Azarian asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman since Marian Pinkerton requested to have her name withdrawn. The Committee voted unanimously to have Jackie Volk serve as Vice Chairman.

The Reorganization Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Before the start of the Regular Meeting, Kelsey McMeans took a picture of the Senior Volunteer Committee.

Regular Meeting

Chairman Peg Azarian called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

The minutes of the November 12, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Old Business:

Community Center Update

There was concern about the workman injured in December at the new Community Center. Jeff explained what happened and said the man was badly hurt but recovering. The Township has given him \$2,500 to help towards his medical expenses.

Ralph reported that the Steering Committee started up again in December and said the construction is on track for a mid-June completion. Some of the topics discussed at the two Steering Committee meetings held so far are: operating hours, holiday hours, staffing, rental fees, and exercise equipment. Future meetings will discuss topics such as member rates and types of membership plans. Nothing will be finalized until after the Steering Committee discussions are completed.

There was also a question about the changes to Horsham Road. Jeff said the road has been widened so that anyone going east on Horsham Road will be able to use the new lane to enter the site.

Red Cross Update – R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Program Follow-Up

Everyone who attended thought it was an excellent program and more specific to individuals than the seminar Rich and Jackie attended sponsored by the county. It is hoped that the program will be offered again and at different times so more residents can participate.

Rick Lesniak will be speaking at the January Baby Boomers event on emergency preparedness and Ginny said anyone attending would receive a 300th Anniversary “green” bag and list of basic supplies to help start their emergency kit. She thanked Rich for providing the list.

Lobby Display Move

The Committee agreed that moving the senior literature into the waiting room was a good move. The racks are much nicer and information is easier to find and maintain.

Report from the Recreation Office

Ginny reported that she was disappointed in the turnout for the Baby Boomers event in December. The speaker came from Wayne, PA and the Recreation Office donated \$50 to RSVP and only 3 people showed up for the program. She handed out flyers with dates for future programs and asked for suggestions of other ways to promote the events. Going through the minutes from previous meetings, Ginny found a survey used when the Committee was first formed to get ideas of what the residents would like. She adapted it for the Baby Boomers programs and will distribute the surveys at upcoming Baby Boomer events to see what kind of feedback we get regarding programs.

There was discussion that perhaps having a program every month was too much and “watered down” the impact of having programs and it was suggested either going back to having 1-2 programs a year sticking to the topics of Medicare and Elder Law or having a program every other month. Another suggestion was to have programs September to November and February through May and not have programs in December and January due to the holidays and cold weather. If we move forward with the monthly programs, flyers promoting the fall programs should be available for the summer concerts.

New Business:

Elder Law Seminar

Ginny contacted Rosemary Ferrino and she is very interested in having another Elder Law seminar. Rosemary asked Ginny to find out if the Committee had a specific topic in mind or should the presentation be a general overview. The Committee felt the seminars have been very successful when Rosemary was general and the audience could ask specific questions. Possible topics suggested were: long term care insurance, wise investments: how do you keep your money from running out, how to stay in your home, and what can people do if they can't get long term care insurance. Dates were also discussed and the Committee asked to see if Rosemary would be available April 23rd or April 30th and the Township Meeting Room would be used. Ginny will contact Rosemary and finalize plans.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Next meeting – Wednesday, March 11th at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by
Ginny Bailey