

Montgomery Township Senior Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: November 12, 2014

Location: Montgomery Township Building, Community Room A

Present: Peg Azarian, Pat Forbes, Brian Forman, Helen Haag, Jeff McDonnell, Marian Pinkerton, Richard Roller, Ralph Schurr, Jacqueline Volk, and Ginny Bailey.

Chair Peg Azarian called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The minutes of the September 10, 2014 minutes were approved as distributed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Introduction of Brian Forman

The Committee welcomed new Recreation and Community Center Director, Brian Forman. Brian briefly talked about his background and work experience before giving a progress report of the Community Center. He said he was currently working on staffing and budget but the hours the Community Center would be open are still up for discussion.

Old Business:

Community Center Update

Ralph reported that the best place for information on the progress of the new Community Center is the Township's E-News and read the update from the November 11th edition.

Several members of the Committee expressed concerns about access to the Community Center from Horsham Road and asked if the Township would be doing anything to make it safer like adding turning lanes. Jeff said the Township can't make improvements or changes to Horsham Road because it is a state road.

Report of the Cohesive Community Preparedness for Emergencies in Montgomery County Summit held October 29th

Jackie and Rich attended the summit which was run by the Greater North Penn Collaborative for Health and Human Services. Rich reported that approximately 175 different agencies attended the summit designed to get them to start thinking about how to get ready for emergencies and how best to serve the groups they represent.

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

All the members of the Committee attended the first session on Thursday, November 6th except for Ralph and Marion who were unable to attend. The second session is tomorrow, November

13th. This program gets you thinking about what to do in case of emergencies in your own home and Rich said it was more focused than the summit on October 29th. It was suggested that the Committee could provide a copy of the list of what's needed in a disaster kit with one of the leftover 300th Anniversary "green bags" from Community Day to people at different Township events like the summer concerts.

Report From the Recreation Office

Ginny reported that the Baby Boomer programs will be:

- January – "What to do before the Lights Go Out",
presented by Rick Lesniak, Director of Fire Services
- February – "Keep Moving for a Healthy Heart",
presented by Balance Class instructor and personal trainer, Kathi Neal
- March – "An Afternoon of Art Appreciation",
presented by Jeanie Sinz from Art Goes to School of Delaware Valley

Ginny said she contacted several local hospitals for a speaker for February, which is Heart Health Month, but no one got back to her before the Winter Newsletter had to go to the printer. Kathi Neal agreed and will provide a program similar the program on Chair Yoga.

New Business:

Literature for Lobby

After the discussion about the racks at the last meeting and cutting her fingers trying to straighten information in the racks, Ginny reported that she found nicer, more user friendly display racks in the Staples catalog for about \$190 each. (A picture of the racks was distributed.) Both Sharon Tucker and Brian Forman have tentatively approved the racks but will wait to purchase them for the new Community Center. In the interim, Stacy Crandell has offered one of the racks in the Administration Waiting Room for the senior information which will look much nicer and where other Township information is located. After looking at the racks in the waiting room, the Committee approved the relocation of the senior information. It was also suggested that information be kept in the waiting room even after the move to the Community Center for the convenience of the residents coming in to pay a bill or looking for other information.

Program Suggestions for April and May Baby Boomers

Since Ginny will have to set up April and May's programs before the next Senior Committee meeting in January, she asked for suggestions of possible programs. After some discussion, it was decided that she should ask State Representative Todd Stephens for the April event. Even though none of the hospitals got back to Ginny for the February program, Jared Herzog from Doylestown Hospital contacted Ginny earlier this month and offered to provide a speaker for May which is Osteoporosis Month. Jared emailed Ginny today to say Dr. Jacobs-Kosmin is interested in speaking in May and that the marketing department at Doylestown Hospital will help promote the event. Ginny also asked about the Committee's interest in holding an Elder Law Seminar in the evening and the Committee decided to hold the seminar in early April. Ginny will contact Rosemary Ferrino to see when she might be available.

Reorganization Meeting for January

The first order of business in January will be a reorganization meeting to elect or re-elect officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next meeting – Wednesday, January 14th at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by
Ginny Bailey