

Montgomery Township Senior Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 11, 2015

Location: Montgomery Township Building, Community Room A

Present: Pat Forbes, Helen Haag, Jeff McDonnell, Marian Pinkerton, Richard Roller, Ralph Schurr, and Ginny Bailey.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Richard Roller called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

The minutes of the January 14, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Unfinished Business:

Community Center Update

Ralph reported that the steering committee has met 3 times since December and among the topics discussed were Community Center hours, fees for membership and babysitting, ages to use the equipment, etc. At the Board of Supervisors meeting on Monday, the following hours were established:

Community and Recreation Center Regular Hours

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Monday – Thursday | 5:30 am – 9:00 pm |
| Friday | 5:30 am – 8:00 pm |
| Saturday | 8:00 am – 4:00 pm |
| Sunday | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm |

Community and Recreation Center Holiday Hours

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| January 1 (New Year's Day) | Closed |
| Easter Sunday | Closed |
| Memorial Day | 7:00 am – 12:00 pm |
| July 4 (Independence Day) | 7:00 am – 12:00 pm |
| Labor Day | 7:00 am – 12:00 pm |
| Thanksgiving Eve | 5:30 am – 1:00 pm |
| Thanksgiving Day | 7:00 am – 12:00 pm |
| December 24 (Christmas Eve) | 5:30 am – 1:00 pm |
| December 25 (Christmas Day) | Closed |
| December 31 (New Year's Eve) | 5:30 am – 1:00 pm |

Fees were also presented but the Board postponed voting on them until they could look into it further and the guidelines for holding events are also being determined. Larry Gregan will look into applying for the Silver Sneakers program. There was discussion about volunteer opportunities but volunteers cannot replace jobs.

Rich mentioned that he has been contacted by the family of Charles Harkin, a Township resident and artist, who were willing to donate sculptures to the Township. There was a suggestion that perhaps other Township residents could display their artwork in the Community Center with information about the artist and fees if the artist was willing to sell his/her work. Rich said he would follow up with the Harkin family.

Elder Law Seminar

Ginny reported that she has been working with Rosemary Ferrino and her assistant, Jillian Bieber, and the Elder Law Seminar event is confirmed and will be held Thursday, April 23rd at 7:00 pm in the Township Meeting Room. Ginny also distributed flyers approved by Rosemary and Jillian.

Report from the Recreation Office

Ginny distributed the Senior Events page from the Spring/Summer Recreation Newsletter and mentioned that in addition to the Baby Boomer events and Elder Law Seminar, there will be an AARP Driver's Safety Course and Refresher Course this spring. Other programs of interest, in addition to the exercise and fitness programs, will be Penn State Master Gardener workshops on composting and tabletop topiaries.

Community Center and Recreation Director, Brian Forman came into the meeting to introduce Matt Reimel, the new Recreation Coordinator who will start work in April.

New Business:

Baby Boomers Surveys

Ginny reported that there were 6 people at the January event and 13 people at the February event and thanked the Committee members for getting the word out. Surveys were available at both events and 10 total have been returned. Ginny distributed a compilation of the survey results from January and February and pointed out that people are finding out about the events from the Recreation Newsletter. The majority of people responding would prefer events during the day and on a monthly basis. Being contacted by email about events was the preferred response, half get the Township's E-News, and no one had a Twitter account. The program suggestions were varied but will be a good place to start when planning next year's programs. All agreed having the events in the new Community Center will boost attendance. Surveys will be distributed at the remaining Baby Boomer events and at the Elder Law Seminar and Ginny will bring the compiled results to the June meeting.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Fire Safety Training Program

On Tuesday, Helen attended a Fire Safety Training Program specifically for hearing impaired individuals. Fire Services has received a grant from FEMA to provide special smoke alarms for residents who are deaf or hard of hearing and the Deaf-Hearing Communication Center provided

interpreters and information for the event. There will be two other events at the Township Building and Fire Station #1 and urged the Committee to let their deaf friends know about the smoke detectors and these events*.

***3/12 Update:**I had asked Rick Lesniak about the dates for the other two events so I could include them in the minutes in case you wanted to tell your friends about them. Rick just stopped in to say that the events were supposed to be held the first week of March but because of the weather, they could only hold the one on Tuesday. Until they can get an extension of the grant from FEMA, they can't hold any more programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next meeting – Wednesday, June 10th at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by
Ginny Bailey