

Montgomery Township Senior Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 20, 2016

Location: Montgomery Township Community & Recreation Building, Senior Lounge

Present: Peg Azarian, Karen Grant, Helen Haag, Jeff McDonnell, Marian Pinkerton, Matt Reimel, Richard Roller, Jacqueline Volk, and Ginny Bailey.

Also present,
Nancy Morris and Bob Sykes from APPRISE and Kylie Emory from Solana Senior Living, Horsham

Reorganization Meeting

Staff liaison Ginny Bailey called the Reorganization Meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Nominations for Chairman

The Committee voted unanimously to have Jackie Volk serve as Chairman of the Senior Committee. Before turning the meeting over to Jackie, Ginny thanked Peg for her leadership as Chairman the last two years.

Nominations for Vice-Chairman

The Committee voted unanimously to have Karen Grant serve as Vice Chairman.

The Reorganization Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Regular Meeting

Newly elected Chairman Jackie Volk called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

The minutes of the November 18, 2015 meeting were approved as distributed.

Public Comment

Bob Sykes from APPRISE attended the meeting to introduce Nancy Morris as the new contact person for Montgomery Township. Nancy has been trained and certified in Medicare and the state insurance program and would like to be more active in the Township. APPRISE counselors offer free, unbiased advice about health insurance through presentations and one-on-one counseling.

Nancy Morris from APPRISE said she was looking for a new site to offer her counseling service and is hoping to use either the Community & Recreation Center or the Township Administration Building as a place to meet clients. All she would need is a private office with a phone and

computer or WIFI if she would need to bring her laptop. Nancy would like to start one day per month and all consultations would be by appointment with the possibility of adding days and times if necessary. When a new site is opened, RSVP will place an ad announcing the location with the day(s) and time(s) available. It was suggested that besides the RSVP ad, information could be placed on the website and calendar and sent out by email.

Kylie Emory from Solana Senior Living said she would like to be a community partner with Montgomery Township. She mentioned the two monthly programs sponsored by Solana will feature bocce as the first program each month with a craft planned for the second program. Kylie said that occasionally a speaker could be arranged as another option. It was suggested that the residents of Solana could also attend to get more people out to the events. Kylie said they hold programs for caregivers at Solana that we could advertise and that she would be willing to send email blasts to let her contacts know about the summer concert series and other events. It was mentioned to Kylie that the address on the program flyers list the CRC address instead of Solana's to avoid confusion.

Unfinished Business:

Breakfast with Santa

Ginny thanked the members of the Senior Committee for helping out at the Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, December 5th. There were 75 people at the event including children, their parents, volunteers and members of the FDMT who brought Santa on the fire truck. Everyone had a great time and the children really enjoyed seeing the fire trucks, making crafts and letting Santa know their Christmas list.

APPRISE Consultant at the Community Center

Matt said he would look into finding a suitable location for Nancy to use as an APPRISE site. The Senior Lounge is too big but there may be a place in the Township Administration Building that could be used.

Report from the Recreation Office

Matt said the first Solana event was not that well attended but there were more people out for the second event which was making fruit arrangements. He reported that people are taking advantage of the building and membership figures are up with 400-500 memberships. Matt didn't have the exact figures but said he would give a more detailed report in March. Party rentals are way up and the CRC is booked every weekend. The Committee asked if it would be possible to have Tai Chi and meditation classes offered at the CRC. Matt said the exercise and fitness classes were schedule by Weston Fitness and they are always looking for class suggestions and programs that would be a good fit.

The Park Board suggested having Matt or Brian meet with the residents of Neshaminy Falls to promote the CRC and talk about Silver Sneakers and free events. Helen said the residents of Neshaminy Falls think you have to be a member to take advantage of the programs so meeting with them would be helpful. It was suggested that perhaps the resident newsletter or bulletin boards could be used to promote CRC events.

New Business:

Plans for 2016

- Elder Law Seminar

Ginny was asked to contact Rosemary Ferrino for 2-3 dates to hold another Elder Law Seminar this spring. Depending on the date, the event could be held at the CRC instead of the Township Building. It was also mentioned that part of the program this year should include information for veterans.

- Summer Concert Series

The Committee asked if the Township would be holding their summer concert series again this year and if so, where would the concerts be held. Ginny reported the concerts would be held in front of the CRC and that there will be 10 concerts this summer from Thursday, June 23rd to Thursday, August 25th. Some of the bands booked are perennial favorites like The Mango Men and Elvis by Dean Garofolo as well as several new bands like Big House Band, First Highland Watch and River of Dreams. The Committee asked if it would be possible to have concessions such as hot dogs or snacks and Matt said he would look into it. The Committee also asked about having a table for their literature and Matt said that a table would be available to them.

Emergency Shelter

Two years ago, the Township Building was available for people who needed to get warm or charge their cell phones or iPads and with the reports of a snow storm over the weekend, the Committee asked if the CRC would be the place to go in an emergency. Jeff said no decision had been made and it's something the Township needs to address. When asked what the policy would be for closing the CRC in a snow storm, Matt said the situation would be monitored and the closing would be posted on the website and an email sent to the residents. The parking lot will be cleared as quickly as possible so the CRC could reopen after the storm.

CRC Parking Lot

It was mentioned that when someone makes a left-hand turn from Horsham Road, it's difficult to see the curb/island at the entrance at night. The entrance is not well lit and should be painted so people can see the curb/island.

Adult Coloring Club

Karen said she's been in touch with a woman who would like to conduct a drawing or coloring class for the Coloring Club. Matt asked for her information so he could contact her.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Next meeting – Wednesday, March 16th at 7:00 pm in the Senior Lounge.

Submitted by
Ginny Bailey