

MINUTES

Commission on Aging Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 @ 10 am

Community Center Room 107

Members Present: Phyllis Jachimowski, Evelyn Molner, Suzanne Reilly and Chairman Karen Stanek.

Member(s) Absent: Kathy Pagliaro-Rich

Others present: Mary McNelis, Community Services Director, Lucy McConologue, Elderly Services Manager, Andrea Flach and Ruth M. Olenchuk.

1. **Call meeting to order:** The meeting was called to order by Karen @ 10:10 am
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** all present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Public comment:** Ruth made the suggestion that she'd like to see more trips like to the Shubert and asked why a larger bus was not used for transportation. In response, Lucy mentioned that the Shubert tickets are expensive and go for \$120 each. There are several reasons why they have been taking the Town's bus: they have not been able to fill a larger bus and its' more cost effective. All the activities are now Community based rather than Senior Center based. Mary added that they have been promoting more through Facebook, the senior newsletter, press releases. They have started to take interest lists prior to booking a show so that there is not a financial loss. It was also mentioned the need for more activities for seniors during the week. Mary mentioned that they are looking send a mailing to all 6,000 Seymour households in the fall to help to promote the services and activities.
4. **Approval of the 3/23/16 minutes:** A Motion was made by Phyllis to approve the March 23, 2016 minutes and 2nd by Evelyn. Motion Carried.
5. **Elderly Services Manager Report:** Lucy presented and distributed a prepared list of Programs and Activities dated April, 2016. The list was categorized as Weekly Activities, Other Activities & Trips that included Free Tax Assistance, Bus availability for shopping on Tuesday and Thursday Mornings and Doctors' appointments in the afternoon and Upcoming Events for May.

As a follow up from the last meeting, Lucy reported that she spoke with Wes Nelson about possible having an Eagle Scout use the Bocce Court as a project. One of the Scout Masters has agreed to take on the project. They are willing to work on upgrading the Bocce area; and/or build an Arbor or some shade area and they have agreed to maintain the area as well and they are scheduling a meeting with Mary and Lucy to discuss the project further. An exciting new program Color Me Happy is beginning in May coloring books and supplies will be provided. The Lunch & Learns have been popular and they offered Free Hotdogs and the Seymour Community Program Police officer last month. Today for example, they have Pizza donated and the Seymour Middle School Jazz Band will be performing and a large crowd is expected so she'll have to leave early to help greet the guests.

Mary introduced the Future programs section and mentioned about the upcoming Uniform Fashion Show that will be held here at the Community Center on Wednesday, June 15 in collaboration with the Valley Senior Services Council. Suzanne added that in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, People's United Bank is pleased to partner with The Valley Senior Services Council, Comfort Keepers to provide a boxed lunch, Shady Knoll to provide a continental breakfast and the Seymour Community Center in supporting by agreeing to host the Uniform Fashion Show – an event to help safeguard the community from scams involving imposters. Members suggested not using the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in the name of the event.

Mary continued to discuss the Transportation Services. The Church services transportation has been going well, with 5 – 7 regulars being transported to the Seymour Congregational, Trinity Episcopal and St. Augustine Sunday morning services. A wheel chair bound person has an individual accompany him and that has worked well. The service is free of charge. The bus holds 20 but 18 comfortably, aides are allowed on the bus, open only to Seymour Residents. The Van has been utilized more during the week for shopping trips and other activities (trips, etc.) There has been positive feedback on the 'new' driver. Suzanne mentioned that they ought to consider transportation to the pharmacies as well.

The Seymour Community Services Senior Center News goes out monthly through the mail. The current number of members = 236 there were 27 new people over the last month that registered. The Center's Goal to increase membership targeting 55 years of age and older. Those over 80 year of age do not need to pay the \$5 dues yet, it was mentioned that some individuals choose to continue to pay the dues even though they are over 80.

6. **Municipal Agent Report** was tabled since Bonnie Wilkes; Municipal Agent for the Elderly was not present.
7. **Public comment:** It was mentioned that while voting yesterday that here was a problem with the Handicapped doors at the Chatfiel-LoPresti School with no buttons probably due to security reason but could present a problem. It was suggested the Superintendent of Schools Christine Syriac be contacted to express the concerns and to see if the situation can be resolved.
8. **Open Discussion** –. It was also suggested that they research the use of using a Permit for the mailings to reduce the costs.
9. **Adjournment** - A motion was made by Phyllis and 2nd by Evelyn to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 am. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Suzanne Reilly
Secretary