**Senior Advisory Board Meeting**

**Minutes, September 5, 2024 9:30 AM**

**Normal Township Activity and Recreation Center**

**600 E. Willow, Normal, IL 61761**

**Members Present:** Chair Deb Shaw, Laura Bailey, Michael Fulford, Terry Lindberg, Garth Piercy, Carol Smith

**Members Absent:** None

**Township Officials:** Jess Ray, Supervisor; Trustees: Floyd Aper, Arlene Hosea

**ARC Staff:** Director of Operations Lori Kerns; Director of Programming Molly Camper;Member Services Manager Elicssha Sanders; Communications Coordinator Samantha Scott

**Public Present:** Darla Heath, Faith in Action

Meeting called to order by Chair Deb Shaw at 9:30 AM.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2024 meeting was made by Carol Smith. Motion seconded by Garth Piercy. Motion passed.

**Public Comment**

Darla Heath, Faith in Action, reported they have sold 846 mum sales the most ever sold with thanks to social media. Pick-up is at St. John’s Lutheran Church on Sept. 12, 10:00-3:00. FIA started their new lease on Sept. 1st and are very appreciative of the ARC. The flower arranging class was fun with $1,000 profit realized. Two weeks ago, FIA was awarded a "Professionals with a Purpose" grant where each member pledges to donate $100 per quarter to the charity selected by the organization.

**Report from Chair** – Deb Shaw: No report

**Board Member Updates**

Laura Bailey reported there is a rodent problem in the kitchen needing immediate attention and removal. Jess Ray said Orkin has been called and will call again.

Carol Smith expressed concern about the movies being shown, specifically the language in “Stronger.” Sammi indicated it was advertised as having a “severe profanity warning.” Lori said the staff talked as a group as others had expressed concern. The Parental Guide is used when determining which movies to show. “Stronger” was played on the Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism. An option discussed is to post the rating/warning outside the Auditorium in addition to the newsletter.

**New Business**

The new Director of Operations, Lori Kerns, introduced herself and her background in senior healthcare, assisted and supportive living. She has been impressed with the programs at the ARC and looks forward to helping with its growth.

**Old Business** – Discussion of Future Program Planning

Molly said Board members should have received an email from Sammi with a list of monthly focus points going forward. We are looking for ideas for programming associated with those focuses.

Michael mentioned the Veteran's Wall suggesting posting members’ pictures recognizing military branch and years of service. It had been done a few years ago but can be revisited.

Michael asked about having a "sports team" day to wear shirts from their favorite team. There is one scheduled during Spirit Week Sept. 23-27. The list is on the front page of the September newsletter.

Regarding Veterans, Molly said a new Veterans Coffee Group is being started in cooperation with Traditions Hospice to help launch the program, develop topics and find speakers.

October recognizes Indigenous People. Michael suggested an “On this day in History…”

September 19 is “Talk like a Pirate Day.” This had previously been recognized.

For the 2025 calendar, Elicssha has a list of national “days”, like blueberry muffin day, and to maybe choose one of those days per month and recognize it on the specific day. We missed national Pickleball day in August. She will share the list with Sammi.

**Suggested Topics for Next Meeting**

Molly asked Board members to bring suggestions for the 2025 calendar both programming and newsletter insert. The insert is available online if you wish to review for future ideas.

Elicssha would like programming ideas to include ways for the full membership to participate in any activity related to the topic of the month.

Lori, having worked previously with advisory boards, asked how the Board keeps the pulse of the wants/needs of the membership.

Surveys have been done on specific topics and there is a suggestion box. Ideas for membership input included: “Meet the Director and Advisory Board” or “Meet with a Staff Member”.

**Program Updates**

Laura reported Peace Meal will no longer be delivering meals on Wednesdays beginning in October. It is a funding issue. People can request an extra meal to cover the non-delivery day. People receiving home delivery will receive two meals on Tuesday. Peace Meal funding was discussed: OSF, Dept. on Aging, RSVP.

Sammi reported the annual September direct mail fundraising letter will go out shortly as there was a delay at the printer. $2,500 has been raised in the first 5 days of September.

October 5 is the Alzheimer’s Walk at Heartland. Our team's fundraising is currently in 4th place. More information to come as it gets closer to the date. Look for our purple shirts at Heartland Community College at 8:15 AM the day of the event!

September 13 is the Outdoor Concert with the Blue Hares performing. The A to Z Catering truck will be there for food.

September 27 is the Senior Care Network Community Health Fair from 11:00-1:00. There will be 30 vendors and 2 food trucks: Uncle Tony’s and Healthy in a Hurry. A pet adoption will be held outside in the greenspace.

October 26 is our Celebrate the Season Art & Craft Sale and we are full with 31 vendors.

Facilities Manager Update: Per Jess the person decided to stay where he was. The job has been posted on “Indeed,” and five have applied. The Township Board will begin the process again.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:10 by Chair Deb Shaw.**

**Next Normal Township Board Meeting: September 19, 2024 at 8:15 AM**

**Next Senior Advisory Committee Meeting: October 3, 2024 at 9:30 AM**