**Senior Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Minutes Thursday, May 5th, 2022 | 9:30 AM**

**Normal Township Activity and Recreation Center**

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

**Members Present:** Chair Deb Shaw, Uday Deoskar, Jana Edge, Rich Farr, Steven Kossman, Carol Plotkin, Leonard Ross, Barbara Singer

**Members Absent:** Faye Sanders

**Township Officials:** Supervisor Sarah Grammer, Trustee Sally Pyne, Trustee Arlene Hosea, Trustee Art Rodriguez

**ARC Staff:** Director of Operations Jess Ray, Member Services Manager Elicssha Sanders, Communications Coordinator Samantha Scott, Director of Programming Molly Camper

**Public Present:** Mary Lou Allman, Pamela Sweetwood (New Director at Faith in Action)

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 7th, 2022 meeting made by Steven Kossman and seconded by Vice Chair Barbara Singer. Motion passed.

**Report from Chair**

Chair Shaw thanked everyone for asking her to be in this role and praised benefits to mental health. Peace Meal Update: Now that Ruby Jones will be returning to work at ARC on Fridays starting in June, Peace Meal is looking for someone to fill her shift on Fridays.

**Member Updates & Committee Reports**

**Uday Deoskar, Health & Wellness –** Not able to attend in person but talking with Jana Edge about a holistic plan for wellness throughout the aging process.

**Jana Edge –** Elaborating on Uday’s remarks, Jana shared ideas for direct programs at ARC to address pillars of ARC. Examples: Documents that seniors need, senior living, healthy diet, medication management. These would be small discussion groups.

The Parkinson’s Support Group is looking for help. This is a group Jana started many years ago, and she is looking forward to getting involved once again.

**Rich Farr, Fundraising –** Report provided detailing current funds available in the Living Memorial Fund for the green space project. After a $16,199.25 payment to Normal Township for project needs to date and $4,550.43 raised in 2022 so far, there is $48,126.12 available for green space project.

**Steven Kossman –** Asking members if they have DVDs to donate that can be used for movie showings each month. Licensing agreement to show movies at ARC impacts choices that can be made as certain production companies are approved for showing at the center. ARC can use streaming services to show movies that fall under license. Members could donate movies to ARC’s library or the public library.

**Carol Plotkin, Blood Drive Updates –** Next blood drive at ARC on May 11th from 12 – 5 PM. There will be a June 8th drive from 12 – 5 PM, and then will return to a quarterly schedule.

**Leonard Ross –** Questioned if ever considered mass mailings to several doctor’s offices rather than driving to each place to deliver newsletters for ARC. Sammi could add emails of those interested in receiving newsletter at offices to email list, but if received that way, the likelihood of copies being printed is low. Sammi shared that Central Illinois Institute of Balance is interested in receiving copies for their office.

**Faye Sanders** – Absent

**Barbara Singer –** Jess and Barbara met following the April advisory meeting with John Bishop and Mike Stockum about helping with the Memorial Day event at ARC. Jess has also spoken with Colonel David Terrinoni and will be checking in with the Honor Guard – meeting times are upcoming to make final arrangements for the event.

**Report from Township Supervisor Sarah Grammer**

Brick paver patio construction in underway in the green space. Normal Township was awarded $2,500 from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation to assist in the purchase of native plants for the green space.

Molly and Sarah met with ISU nursing program leaders and students in the past. Sarah sent back the legal agreement for student rotation to take place at ARC to offer blood pressures taken, etc. Hope to start offering come the fall semester.

**Jess Ray Director of Operations Report** - Report attached to meeting packet. Happy Older Americans Month! Theme is Age My Way – focuses on planning, engagement, access, home improvements, and social connections. Shared handout from the Administration for Community Living.

Shared that the first reception rental at ARC went well on April 30th. Can share pictures with anyone interested.

**Molly Camper, Program Highlights** – Report attached to meeting packet. Pickleball Tournament is upcoming on May 21st from 8 AM – 4 PM. Lucy Croft returned to teaching Zumba on Tuesday, May 3rd. She had 120 people attend her 4 classes. She teaches Zumba and Fit & Fabulous.

Nancy Komlanc, The Tech Tutor, is offering a free seminar today on making the switch from flip phones to smartphones as flip phones will phase out later this year.

First in-person Rules of the Road program since COVID pandemic began will be May 10th.

**Elicssha Sanders, Member Services** - Report attached to meeting packet. The return of Lucy’s classes has resulted in increased revenue for the month. Membership is now at 2,700+. The management team is actively looking for shuttle van driver and a Member Service Representative (MSR) in preparation for increase in hours in June.

5 new shuttle van riders from March to April.

**Samantha Scott, Communications and Fundraising Update** – Report attached to meeting packet. The next Portillo’s dine and donate fundraiser date is confirmed for June 30th from 4 – 8 PM. Green space fundraising total to date is $4543.91. ARC’s anniversary fundraiser was a great success bringing in over $3,000 with the Bloomington Normal Community Bank $1,000 match.

**New Business**

1. **Discussion of ARC Operations:** Less than one month out from beginning new hours of operation, so the goal now is to get a few new employees on board. Jess has been working on developing opportunities for collaborations with other community organizations including the McLean County Museum of History, McLean County Arts Center, and Milner Library. ISU faculty will be visiting with students interested in internships next month. Potential areas of interest include nursing, business, politics, etc. Also thinking about how Eagle Scouts and 4H could potentially work with ARC on green space projects.

Jess has information on the accreditation process, but work is on hold in this area while we get settled with changes in operations.

Counts of members participating in programs are used to gauge member interest in programs and to evaluate the success of programs.

**Suggested Topics for Next Meeting**

None

**Public Comment**

Normal Township Trustee Art Rodriguez mentioned the potential of ARC being a place where old medications can be disposed of – Jess will investigate this potential, but there may be liability issues. Could consider have a few days of the year where a community organization already working in this area could come to ARC to offer the service.

Trustee Sally Pyne shared the Township Board has discussed the purchase of a second shuttle van and said that it sounds like that would be supported based on conversations throughout this meeting. Drivers are paid; Jana may know some people from church who may be interested in a driving opportunity. Is there potential for a partnership with churches to borrow vans for ARC when not in use by the church?

Sally also suggested working with the senior professional’s program at Illinois State. Molly shared she will be working with the U of I Extension office to offer their Happy Hacks program and a healthy heart workshop.

Regular Township Board Meeting will be held May 19th at Normal Township Hall at 8:15 AM.

Motion to adjourn: Steven Kossman. Seconded by Carol Plotkin. Meeting adjourned at 10:23 AM.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 2, 2022, at 9:30 AM.