**Senior Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Minutes Thursday, June 2, 2022 | 9:30 AM**

**Normal Township Activity and Recreation Center**

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

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

**Members Absent:**

**Township Officials:** Supervisor Sarah Grammer, 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 Wuhrmann, Nancy Bishop, Joann Steinberg

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 5th, 2022 meeting made by Vice Chair Barbara Singer and seconded by Carol Plotkin. Motion passed.

**Report from Chair**

Chair Shaw shared that Peace Meal will return to in-person Friday service at ARC beginning this week. Salad bar will also return to Peace Meal on Tuesdays beginning June 7th. Also offered praise for the new website design and ease of use on mobile devices.

**Member Updates & Committee Reports**

**Uday Deoskar, Health & Wellness –** As we emerge from the pandemic phase of COVID-19, important to review the health and wellness impact of the pandemic on the community – even for those who have not yet been infected.

ARC’s activities will help members overcome challenges related to the pandemic in many ways. Discussed following up with members and offering one-on-one consultations and group presentations in partnership with Jana that will be good for overall health and wellness.

**Jana Edge –** Will soon meet with Dr. Deoskar to create an outline of potential health and wellness programming to be offered at ARC.

**Rich Farr, Fundraising –** No report.

**Steven Kossman (absent) –** Director of Programming Molly Camper shared on Steven’s behalf that 3 members have expressed interest in serving on the movie selection committee. Steven should be reaching out to those members soon.

**Carol Plotkin, Blood Drive Updates –** Last blood drive took place on May 11th, but we have yet to hear results. The next blood drive will take place June 8th from 12 – 5 PM.

**Leonard Ross –** No report

**Faye Sanders** – No report

**Barbara Singer –** Group thanked Barbara for her work with the veteran’s committee on putting together the Memorial Day event with ARC staff. The veteran’s committee has put together a good team to plan events with Director of Operations Jess Ray’s help and support.

**Report from Township Supervisor Sarah Grammer**

The green space project is moving along. There was a change order on foundational drain pieces used so as not to create a trip hazard. The change order was processed last week, so the project is now anticipated to wrap at the end of next week.

The Normal Township Board has requested that further discussion of the purchase of a second shuttle van for ARC take place at their June meeting.

The leak over the boiler room has been patched and is holding well, so the roof is now in a bit better condition than it has been in years past.

**Jess Ray Director of Operations Report** - Report attached to meeting packet. Has been working with Facilities Manager Preston Hill to plan for outdoor projects at ARC to begin. One project that is now complete is the removal of the large bush on the back side of the building near the stop sign that had been causing difficulty seeing as cars enter and exit the lot.

Jess and Molly have also been discussing ideas for potential evening and Friday programs.

**Molly Camper, Program Highlights** – Report attached to meeting packet. Gave further explanation of the Happy Hacks program scheduled for June 7th that is being provided by U of I Extension to address barriers to positivity and wellbeing.

**Elicssha Sanders, Member Services** - Report attached to meeting packet. Membership numbers are staying steady. Though it looks like they may be dropping, we know that trend tends to occur as the weather improves. Membership is ~2,700 to date with more members attending on evenings and weekends.

In the process of hiring an additional shuttle van driver due to the increase in usage of van services and the plan for a second van.

Correction to report: May Programming Revenue - $9,736.

Ruby Jones to return to Member Services role at ARC on Fridays.

**Samantha Scott, Communications and Fundraising Update** – Report attached to meeting packet. Glad to hear of positive feedback after the website update. In just the last couple of days since the update, we have already seen more consistent use of the contact us options, so it seems that people are giving the new website a try.

**New Business**

1. **Discussion of ARC Operations:** ARC to be open Fridays for the first time in 2 years starting this week, allowing us to be operational 6 days a week. Working on hiring additional MSR staff. This will mean more staff will be in the building each week than we have recently had, but it won’t be more staff than in years past.

Discussion of it being an interesting time to expand due to seasonal challenges and the need for people to reprogram into new habits and routines. This slow return to an expanded schedule will allow staff time to assess how best to serve members and to get back into routine themselves.

**Suggested Topics for Next Meeting**

None

**Public Comment**

Discussion of Connect Transit transportation board: working on creating a rideshare/drop-off program for companies. Trustee Art Rodriguez expressed interest in ARC being a participant. Supervisor Grammar would still love for there to be a Connect Transit route with ARC on it. Vice Chair Singer is on the transportation board and will discuss options for ARC at next meeting. Art is interested in attending the next meeting.

Discussed nurse services returning to the center in late August or September for a few hours a couple times a week to offer blood pressure checks and other services. The agreement is now in the hands of ISU attorneys awaiting final approval. The students who would provide services would be 3rd and 4th years, and potentially nurse practitioner students, with mentors.

Jana expressed concern over younger students needing to learn how to work with seniors who have individual medical issues but recognizes that the experience will be good for students and the community.

As the contract for services is finalized, Sarah hopes to include staff, Jana and Dr. Deoskar in the conversation. The hope is that nursing services will be offered year-round, but more details will be determined when the contract is finalized.

Discussion of how the key fobs used to enter ARC work and that they don’t allow you to know who exactly is participating in each program. Pinochle is seeing decreased participants and the lack of knowing names of exactly who has participated recently and in the past hurts the ability for staff and other members to reach out to participants with well wishes and to see if they plan to return. This issue affects a variety of programs at ARC, so staff will brainstorm ways they may be able to obtain names of participants in specific programs. May create lists within groups that people can choose to share contact information on or not.

Regular Township Board Meeting will be held June 16th at Normal Township Hall at 8:15 AM.

Motion to adjourn: Jana Edge. Seconded by Vice Chair Barb Singer. Meeting adjourned at 10:14 AM.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 7th, 2022, at 9:30 AM.