**Senior Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Minutes, February 2, 2023 9:30 AM**

**Normal Township Activity and Recreation Center**

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

**Members Present:** Jana Edge, Rich Farr, Steven Kossman, Carol Plotkin, Sylvia Richardson, Leonard Ross, Carol Smith, Linda Spencer

**Members Absent:** Chair Deb Shaw

**Township Officials:** Jess Ray, Supervisor

**ARC Staff:** Member Services Manager Elicssha Sanders; Communications Coordinator Samantha Scott

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

Meeting called to order by Steven Kossman (Acting Chair in Deb Shaw’s absence) at 9:30 AM.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2023 meeting made by Jana Edge and seconded by Carol Plotkin. Motion passed.

**Report from Chair**

No report from Steven Kossman as acting Chair.

**Member Updates and Committee Reports**

**Jana Edge, Health & Wellness** – Jana and Sylvia have a project in the idea phase, more information to come at a future date.

**Rich Farr, Fundraising** – Acknowledged success of fundraising for the Living Memorial Fund and the Green Space. Bloomington Normal Community Bank is interested in a photo opportunity for the transfer of funds/donation at the Green Space unveiling. Fundraising will continue for maintenance of the Green Space.

**Steven Kossman, Movie Committee** – No report. Steve questioned if committee was still functioning. Carol Smith said she receives a list of available movies from Molly and they choose movies. Steve recommended Carol chair the committee as they have developed a system.

**Carol Plotkin, Blood Drive Update** – Next Blood Drive is Feb. 15 from 11:00 - 4:00.

**Leonard Ross, Outreach** – No report.

**Sylvia Richardson, Diversity & Inclusion –** The movie “Selma” was well attended. Thanks to Sammi for the insert in the February newsletter celebrating Black culture and contributions. Movies are planned every week starting on Feb. 3.

Steve added Evergreen Cemetery has a program highlighting Black contributions to the community.

**Report from Township Supervisor & ARC Operations Overview: Jess Ray**

Jess welcomed Darla Heath the new Director of Faith in Action.

The collaboration with YWCA RSVP program has been renewed.

The VITA tax preparation season started on February 1.

An elevator inspection will take place on February 22, there may be brief outages.

There is an issue with the sprinkler system needing repair. When the part is received, a back flow valve, the center may need to be closed. We are hoping for the repair to be done on a Friday.

New fiscal year begins April 1st. ARC staff has been meeting to discuss goals, staffing changes and temporary membership. (Temp. Membership: see Old Business.)

Jess attended a meeting this morning with the Health Improvement Partnership reviewing what each program offers and how to collaborate. Organizations represented included Carle, McLean County, Chestnut, OSF, Midwest Food Bank and Unit 5 Schools. Discussion included behavioral health, healthy eating & community garden. Additional topics were the loss of the State Farm Good Neighbor donation program, emergency housing during cold/hot snaps and the anticipated loss of State & Federal COVID emergency funding.

**ARC Staff Reports**

**Molly Camper, Program Highlights** – Molly was assisting at the front desk her report is attached to meeting packet.

**Elicssha Sanders, Member Services** – Report is attached to the meeting packet.

Elicssha highlighted the welcoming of Barb Dallinger as our Sunshine Coordinator.

**Samantha Scott, Communications Coordinator** – Report is attached to the packet.

A meeting was held with Susan Kossman and Master Gardener colleague Cindy, who have offered their gardening expertise to landscape the new Green Space. They are going to get back on an estimated number of plants and placement for cost. We have the “Go Green” grant to help with the purchase. Hope is to have the landscaping completed before the unveiling in the spring.

The ARC’s 7th anniversary is April 26, 2023 fundraising will begin in April with an open house at the end of the month.

The Volunteer Appreciation Party is April 26. The theme is “Camp ARC”. Invitations will go out in March.

**Old Business**

Guest Pass/Temporary Membership Discussion: Jess reported ARC Staff has been meeting to discuss a “Day Pass” for a member’s friend or visiting relative and how to administer the pass.

Highlights of discussion: The visitor must meet membership requirements, age 55+, fill out application, etc. Price point suggested was $5.00 per day pass. This fee will not be applied to a full membership. A day pass holder cannot participate in a “paid” class. We still need to reach out to legal regarding liability. A day pass is different than a caregiver pass which is linked to the member needing the support. Based on the discussion, the Senior Advisory Board expressed support for the on-going day pass development.

Request to move the March Meeting to March 9th has been approved by the Normal Township Board.

**New Business**

Darla Heath, Director of Faith in Action expressed the agency’s need for Board Members and volunteers. Volunteers must be 22+ years old. Volunteer drivers provided transportation to appointments, grocery stores and provide friendly visits to 60+ year old care receiver. They have also been affected by State Farm and Amazon grant funding cuts. Darla also expressed thanks for the office space in the ARC building.

Discuss Committees Jess suggested rethinking committee structure as some seem to overlap, for example: Health & Wellness with the Blood Drive. Due to time, discussion will be moved March agenda as Old Business.

Linda asked if the Board had a Mission Statement and was referred to the ARC website. Jess sees the Board as a conduit to members and to bring ideas and recommendations to the Township. Elicssha sees the Board as the eyes and ears to what is happening with members. Sammi sees the Board as opinion leaders and assisting with fundraising. Jana appreciates the staff is sensitive to ideas and suggestions.

New Members/End of Terms Several Board members’ terms end in March: Rich Farr and Carol Plotkin. Also Carol Smith, Linda Spencer and Sylvia Richardson are filling in on terms ending in March.

**Suggested Topics for Next Meeting**

Continue discussion on Committees.

**Public Comment**

None

**Next Normal Township Board Meeting: February 16, 2023 at 8:15 AM**

**Next Senior Advisory Committee Meeting: March 9, 2023 at 9:30 AM.**

Steven Kossman adjourned the meeting at 10:25 AM.