**Senior Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**January 5th, 2022 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, Trustee Sally Pyne, Trustee Arlene Hosea

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

**Public Present:** Pamela Sweetwood, Faith in Action; Leslie Hitchins, Mary Wuhrmann

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2022 meeting made by Carol Plotkin and seconded by Jana Edge. Motion passed.

**Report from Chair**

No report from Steven as acting Chair.

**Member Updates and Committee Reports**

**Jana Edge, Health & Wellness** – No report.

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

**Steven Kossman, Movie Committee** – No report.

**Carol Plotkin, Blood Drive Update** – The Nov. 30th blood drive collected 29 units. Next drive will be February 15th. Additional drives will take place in May and August.

**Sylvia Richardson, Diversity & Inclusion –** Movie “Selma” is scheduled for January 16th in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Recognition of MLK was also shared via weekly emails.

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

**Carol Smith** – No report.

**Linda Spencer** – No report.

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

Update regarding solar power agreement payoff vs building loan payoff – solar power agreement payoff will end in 2035 after $600,000; building loan payoff will end in 2029.

Discussion regarding who will be contracted to maintain the solar array once paid off. Jess will investigate the details. Have received recommendations about types of membranes available for the roof.

During open enrollment for Medicare, 6 Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) counselors and 1 trainee served over 403 clients, which is estimated to have helped save $125,714 total or about $1,014 per client. Discussed the possibility of sending out client satisfaction surveys.

Staff from the Charleston/Mattoon and Decatur senior centers visited ARC in December to learn more about our center and gather inspiration. Were all very impressed by ARC’s offerings and environment.

In the process of redoing the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) MOU with YWCA. Have had 5 volunteers associated with RSVP over the last year, which helps reduce social isolation.

**ARC Staff Reports**

**Molly Camper, Program Highlights** – Report passed out to in-person meeting attendees.

Gardening club will cover succulents in January. This meeting will be the inaugural meeting for official members of the club (those who attended at least 6 of 10 2022 gardening club meetings). These official members will receive a lanyard, discount coupons to local garden shops, invites to special member events and more. 17 members for 2023.

Taxes will begin February 1st. All aspects of appointments will take place in the Community Room, Celebration Room and SHIP office on the second floor of ARC. Appointments can be made beginning January 16th.

Intro to the Arts Series programs funded by the Harmon Arts Grant have seen attendance of 20 people each month for the last few months. The success of these programs is helping to increase attendance at paid art programming as well.

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

Ended year well in regard to membership; approaching 3,000 members. Recently found out we take Active & Fit insurance supplement benefit at ARC, which is similar to Silver & Fit. Active & Fit is for people 55 – 64, and Silver & Fit is for people 65+. ARC now partners will 4 insurance supplement programs.

January 3rd, ARC’s first day open after the start of the new year, we sold 34 memberships, 13 of which were brand new members.

Have received questions about whether or not insurance supplement benefits can be used at ARC and other fitness facilities in town at the same time. They can be, and there is a cap on payout.

Shared information on insurance supplement programs with ISU Annuitants and others.

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

Updates to the report: Have now reached and exceeded our $75,000 phase 1 fundraising goal for the green space project. Now $701.18 over the goal with 2 gifts, including one in the amount of $731.80 being given since the start of the new year. In 2022, a total of $14,118.29 was raised toward the green space project with $8,439.38 being raised during the push from August 16th through the end of the year.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Discussion about Guest Passes/Temporary Membership: Have had interest from people members who want to bring age-eligible guests to ARC for the day to try out a program or show off the center and programs they are proud of. Advisory board members in favor of staff continuing discussions on the logistics of a guess pass program. Ex. 2 passes/year, X number of passes for a year. Would still need to sign a waiver. Jess will need to speak with TOIRMA on insurance requirements. Example of the YMCA shared – allows for 3 guest visits upon showing ID and signing waiver. After 3 visits, charged for membership. This system would be more difficult for ARC with such limited staff and multiple entrances. In order to obtain ARC guest pass, would need to be associated with a current member. Will move forward with discussions as a management team, speak with insurance provider and gather examples of other organization processes to determine what makes the most sense for ARC.

Discussed why attending support groups is different than other programs in that ARC allows non-members to participate. These types of programs are often by appointment and are funded by sources that require the programs to be open to the public. Many attendees of these programs are members anyway or become members because they are at the center so often.

It should be part of the mission of the advisory board members to help make this kind of information known to the public to help share as ambassadors what ARC does for the community.

**Suggested Topics for Next Meeting**

None

**Public Comment**

This meeting will be Pamela Sweetwood of Faith in Action’s last as she will be retiring as Director of FIA. Darla Heath will be her successor. Will meet her at the February meeting.

Suggestion for a New Year’s Eve event at ARC.

**Next Normal Township Board Meeting: January 19th, 2023 at 8:15 AM**

**Next Senior Advisory Committee Meeting: February 2nd, 2023 at 9:30 AM.**

Motion to adjourn: Rich Farr, seconded Carol Plotkin. Meeting adjourned at 10:11 AM.