**Senior Advisory Board Meeting**

**Minutes, October 3, 2024 9:30 AM**

**Normal Township Activity and Recreation Center**

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

**Members Present:** Chair Deb Shaw, Michael Fulford, Garth Piercy

**Members Absent:** Laura Bailey, Terry Lindberg, Carol Smith

**Township Officials:** Jess Ray, Supervisor

**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**

Due to the lack of a quorum the approval of the September 5, 2024 meeting minutes will be deferred to the November 7, 2024 meeting.

**Public Comment**

Darla Heath, Faith in Action, reported their annual appeal out soon. There have been many requests for service. For the holiday season FIA will be partnering in the “Presents for Residents” program which provides gift bags to low-income care receivers who may not receive presents. The survey indicated most clients are requesting non-perishable food items. A link will be coming on the Presents for Residents website probably after Thanksgiving. The next “Mardi Gras Bingo” will be held on February 6, 2025 at Destihl.

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

**Board Member Updates**

Michael Fulford asked if there could be a “Trivia Day” or “This day in History” posting.

The past Trivia nights were fundraisers for the Living Memorial Fund.

Additional questions were asked about Community Outreach, flyer (newsletter) distribution, and is there a distance restriction for outreach and shuttle transportation.

Darla had met with Sarge at Western Avenue Community Center to talk about transportation needs, and they are willing to help with transportation.

Sammi has done outreach at organizations and events usually within the county. If you are aware of an organization interested in a presentation, please let her know. Past presentations outside of Bloomington-Normal haven’t produced the outcome for time investment. We do have a flier which now focuses on volunteer opportunities. It can be edited to focus more on programs and include transportation information.

The current shuttle bus area is a 7-mile radius of the ARC. Shuttle information will be added to the website. Concerns expressed: low-cost transportation is a barrier to people.

Molly asked for feedback on the Community Health Fair last Friday. There was a lot of quality information. The vendors appreciated the space and the flow of attendance allowed them to have conversations without being overwhelmed. The dogs were a big hit! They did earn a “foster dog parent”.

**Township Supervisor’s Report** – Jess Ray

Next Township Board meeting on October 17 will be busy. Items included:

* 2025 Holiday Schedule (Draft distributed)
* Grant Applications reviewing; 5 have been received so far
* Facilities Manager
* Hiring Procedure
* Township Office Manager
* Decennial Report approval; Deb asked Jess to share with the Board
* Van drivers will be able to use an intergovernmental WEX card for fuel purchases

**ARC Staff Reports & Committee Updates**

* Program Highlights – Molly Camper: See report provided.

Oct. 16th: McLean Co. Health Dept. holding a COVID/Flu Walk-in Clinic 9:00-3:00

Oct. 26: Celebrate the Season Craft Fair 9:00-1:00 featuring handmade items.

SHIP Counselors busy are with open enrollment beginning. They will be holding two informational meetings on Oct. 24 at 10:00 - Medicare Part D and Oct. 29 at 4:30: Medicare Advantage.

* Member Services – Elicssha Sanders: See report provided.

Updated numbers as of October 2 were distributed.

Colder weather will bring in more people and a surprising number are coming in on or near their 55th birthday.

Molly reported September Program revenue was the highest it has ever been.

* Communications & Fundraising – Samantha Scott: See report provided.

Average age of members is 71.4 years. Most common age is 68 years. We are becoming more “youthful”. Eight years ago, the average age was 74 years.

There was a Dine & Donate Monday but no report has been received.

Next Dine & Donate is at “Moe’s” in north Normal.

The end-of-year fundraising letters have been delayed at the printer. Reponses from emails and the newsletter have been good.

The Walk to End Alzheimer’s is Saturday. The team has raised about $4,000. We will be meeting by the food trucks at 8:15. The opening ceremony is at 9:00. Please feel free to come join us.

A list of booth/presentations at organizations is in the report.

* Operations – Lori Kerns

There will be 2 interviews today for the Facilities Manager. 50 resumes were received, 10 were invited for tours, 2 showed. Hopefully a decision will be made at the Township meeting on October 17.

The ARC Staff has nominated Leslie Hitchins for Volunteer of the Year.

The staff has been extremely kind and helpful in her “on-boarding”. They have been working on policies and procedures, some which will be discussed at the Township meeting.

**Old Business**

2025 Program ideas: Trivia

November: The monthly Veterans Coffee Hour will be starting with Traditions Health.

Greater Peoria Honor Flight will be here for a presentation and a member will be sharing his experience and photos from his Honor Flight trip.

VAC will be here to talk about the Gold Star program.

Ameren Utility will discuss their program for veterans.

Molly will be meeting with a Resource Officer to discuss possible services offered on a drop-in basis.

5 new listings have been added to the Veterans’ Year Book originally done in 2020. It should be located outside the Rec Room.

**New Business**

Lori asked if the by-laws require monthly Board meetings or would quarterly be better?

Current Guidelines were reviewed (June 17, 2021). Any changes or updates would require Board motion and approval by the Township. Due to lack of quorum, the discussion was tabled until the next meeting. The History, Mission Statement & Guidelines can be found on the ARC website.

There are 3 vacancies on the Board: 2 from Normal; 1 from Bloomington

**Suggested Topics for Next Meeting**

2025 Schedule

Discuss possible change to meeting quarterly.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:16 by Chair Deb Shaw.**

**Next Normal Township Board Meeting: October 17, 2024 at 8:15 AM**

**Next Senior Advisory Committee Meeting: November 7, 2024 at 9:30 AM**