



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

Parks and Community Programs Committee

Senior Advisory Committee

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JOE LANDRY
Supervisor

JULIE MCDONNELL
Chair

Meeting Notes- Friday, January 25, 2013

Councilwoman McDonnell wished everyone a Happy New Year and praised the Advisory Committee for contributing to the progress that was made in 2012. A new Town bus, new programs and staffing, collaborations, fundraising success, and improved morale have laid the groundwork for much success in 2013.

- A discussion about subcommittees was held and it was decided that it is time to review the subcommittees that were established last March- and to update them based on what we hope to accomplish in 2013. Changes will be discussed in detail at the February meeting.
- The group had a discussion about creating a Food Subcommittee and discussed the scope of this subcommittee. Suggestions included: (1) Nutrition (portions, sodium and sugar content, special dietary needs), (2) Tastes (red meat/ poultry/ seafood, hot vs. cold, light vs. heavy), (3) Portions and Leftovers, (4) Budgetary Issues, (5) Recipe sharing/Recipe of the Month and possibly (6) Breakfast. Anyone interested in being a part of subcommittee should let Rosemarie or Cindy know. It is important that the subcommittee has representation from the individuals who eat at the Center regularly, and that members should complete a survey, created by the Food Subcommittee. The group also recommended including a nutritionist from the community in an advisory capacity.

Coordinators' Report

- Cindy Desso reported on last month's trips and programs, including the Holiday Luncheon and the Holiday Lights in the Park trip held in December. The February calendar was distributed and upcoming plans for the next several months were discussed. The Winter Snow Ball will be held on Sunday, February 10, from 1pm to 4pm and is free for seniors. Food and musical entertainment will be provided.
- Rosemarie Mullaney distributed a draft of the proposed membership form and cover letter. The proposal is to have an annual \$10 membership fee which would include several free items (lunch, classes) and a member rate on trips and programs. One of the key benefits of having an annual membership is being able to communicate with seniors who are interested in programs or in need of services through mailed newsletters and email updates. Membership is optional and the membership fee will be waived in cases of financial hardship. Membership would begin, July 1 of this year, with annual renewals. The possibility of waiving the fee this year for those already attending the center was discussed, but no decision made yet.

Senior Advisory committee Notes, continued

- Ms. Mullaney also reported on her recent meeting with senior coordinators in Schenectady County. The groups discussed many possibilities and are already beginning to coordinate trips county-wide.

Subcommittee Reports:

Transportation –Rosemarie Mullaney reported on behalf of Richard Ratajak and distributed a draft bus schedule which would streamline shopping trips. A couple of changes were suggested, and the schedule when final will be posted at the Center, on the bus, and online.

Fundraising- Nancy Marcello reported that the cookbook is still in progress; the electronic version is still needed. A separate accounting is in place with the Town for funds raised by the group, and we will need to come up with a process for how these monies will be spent.

Communications and Outreach- Toni Boughton raised the issue of a Sunshine Committee to assist those who are sick, homebound or should be thanked (for donations, etc.). In addition, we have a good mailing list of seniors in Niskayuna and we will use this list going forward to reach out to those who might be interested in programs/services.

Community Resources – Janice Mansfield reported that the benchmarking process is almost complete. The Niskayuna Center’s benchmarking survey will be conducted right after the meeting, and the results reported next month. Councilwoman McDonnell asked that the group continue to work to develop relationships with community organizations going forward, upon completion of the benchmarking process.

The next Senior Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Friday, February 22, 2013.