



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

Parks and Community Programs Committee

Senior Advisory Committee

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JOE LANDRY
Supervisor

JULIE MCDONNELL
Chair

Meeting Notes- Friday, November 30, 2012

Chair's Report

Councilwoman McDonnell reported that the Town's budget was adopted and that Rosemarie Mullaney and Cindy Desso will have a permanent role in the Senior Center, beginning in January. She thanked those that attended the public hearing in support of the Senior Center.

Ms. Laurie Bachledor, the new Director of the Schenectady County Office of Long Term Care and Senior Services was introduced. She explained the county's role in senior services, as well as new initiatives and opportunities for coordination. A discussion was held: many questions were answered and new ideas generated. Councilwoman McDonnell expressed the Town's enthusiasm for working closely with the County in providing resources for seniors. Ms. Bachledor will initiate a meeting of all of the county area senior coordinators in the very near future.

Some examples of county programs in which Niskayuna seniors can participate:

- Arts/theater opportunities/grants
- Job Training
- Caregiver support groups
- Intergenerational Education Centers

Ms. Kathy Schoolcraft spoke about her involvement in OASIS, an organization which offers many programs for seniors, including a healthy living course. The organization is looking for space to provide future programming, and feels that the Town's Community Center would be an ideal location. Councilwoman McDonnell agreed that we would be happy to work with OASIS, if our facility is compatible with the programming. This partnership would provide even more on-site options for Niskayuna seniors.

Ms. Schoolcraft, who is also the Town Historian, suggested that some of the history programs/lectures that have been held recently would be better attended if they were held at the Senior Center. The speakers have been excellent and this would provide another collaboration that would benefit all involved. The group enthusiastically agreed and we will work together to schedule these events in 2013.

Subcommittee Reports:

Transportation –No report this month.

Fundraising- The group reported on the success of the Election Day bake sale, which residents/voters seemed to really appreciate. Some voters even just made general donations to the senior program without purchasing baked goods. A general consensus was that this should be held every year, with longer hours and possibly at the other polling places!

Communications and Outreach/Community Resources – The benchmarking process is almost complete. Membership and newsletters were again discussed as a priority for 2013.

Trips, Programs, and Facilities: See staff report.

Staff Report:

Rosemarie Mullaney and Cindy Desso reported the following:

- The Holiday Luncheon will be held on December 11th.
- A question was raised about the possibility of a stackable washer/dryer for the senior center. Staff was unsure if the current plumbing would allow this- we will follow up with appropriate Town staff.
- The December calendar, including a trip to the Holiday Lights in the Park was discussed.

Due to the holidays and group consensus, the next Senior Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Friday, January 29, 2013.