



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

Parks and Community Programs Committee

Senior Advisory Committee

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JOE LANDRY
Supervisor

JULIE MCDONNELL
Chair

Meeting Notes- Friday, March 30, 2012

The Senior Advisory Committee held its first meeting on Friday, March 30, 2012. Over 25 people attended the meeting which was chaired by Councilwoman Julie McDonnell and Town Supervisor Joe Landry.

The mission of the Advisory Committee was outlined as follows: (a) To determine what type of programming Niskayuna seniors want/need and create these opportunities using staff and volunteers, (b) To centralize and distribute information re: existing community programs and opportunities for seniors and (3)To improve attendance and morale at the Niskayuna Senior Center.

Five target areas were identified, and subcommittees were formed to address each of these areas:

1. Transportation - This subcommittee will develop a policy for transportation and will identify additional transportation needs and make recommendations to better utilize the Town bus.
2. Communications and Outreach - This subcommittee will make recommendations for networking and reaching seniors in the community (using media, written, and phone communications) to determine their needs and to encourage them to participate in Town programming.
3. Fundraising: The subcommittee will make recommendations to raise money through donations or other projects/sales to help offset the costs of senior programming and trips. The group will also look for grant opportunities.
4. Community Resources: This subcommittee will determine what other resources exist for seniors in our Town and County and how we can coordinate these efforts with our own. In addition, the committee will visit other local senior programs to make recommendations for best practices in Niskayuna.
5. Trips, Programs, and Facilities Subcommittee: This subcommittee will make ongoing recommendations regarding senior center programming and building issues, as well as trips and other new types of programming.

Subcommittees will meet and report their progress and recommendation to the full committee each month. New subcommittees will be formed as needed.

Other follow-up issues:

- The bridge group would like to resume playing at the Senior Center, so that those who want to have lunch at the center before bridge do not have to drive back and forth.
- The elevator in the Center does not work sometimes. This has been communicated to staff for follow up.
- We may want to change the “reservation policy” for lunches to make it more user- friendly.

Two regional were identifies as being a valuable resource moving forward:

- New York Capital Region Oasis “Feeds the mind and the body”
<http://www.oasisnet.org/Cities/East/AlbanyNY.aspx>
- Empire State Capital Volkssporters www.ava.org/clubs/ESCV/

The Senior Advisory Committee meetings will generally be held on the last Friday of each month at 10am at Niskayuna Town Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 27th at 10am.