



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

Parks and Community Programs Committee

Senior Advisory Committee

One Niskayuna Circle* Niskayuna, New York 12309-4381
Phone: (518) 386-4503 * Fax (518) 386-4592

JOE LANDRY
Supervisor

JULIE MCDONNELL
Chair

Meeting Notes- Friday, April 27, 2012

The Senior Advisory Committee held its second meeting on Friday, April 27th, 2012. The meeting was chaired by Councilwoman Julie McDonnell. Town Supervisor Joe Landry and Councilwoman Liz Kasper were in attendance as well as over 20 committee members and staff. The Niskayuna Co-op generously provided refreshments for the meeting.

The staffing of the senior center was discussed and Councilwoman McDonnell told the committee that Rosemarie Mullaney and Cindy Desso will be the primary staff for the Senior Center on both Tuesdays and Thursdays, with Edie Cannizzo and Lisa Stevens. Meals are prepared by our chef, Ann Tracy and served by several seniors who are working in kitchen.

The subcommittees established last month reported on their progress as follows:

Transportation – Richard Ratajak reported that the committee had met and looked at efficiency measures to streamline transportation and had several specific recommendations to the Town which involved better communication with the driver, the order of stops to be the most efficient, and minimum numbers for trip participation. A discussion was held about other resources for transportation (e.g., CDTA, Catholic Charities, grocery store buses) and Councilwoman McDonnell asked the subcommittee to begin to look at compiling information on these resources.

Trips, Programs, and Facilities: Lorene Zabin reported that the subcommittee met this month and is looking at initiating a long-term calendar (up to a year) so that a wider array of trips can be planned. Suggestions included visits to SPAC for the ballet, theater trips, NYC trips, etc. Ms. Zabin also reported that she was working with several other committees on a Niska-Day table and survey for seniors which would be in the Information Tent. Richard Ratajak, co-chair discussed many sports-related trip opportunities that exist in our area such as Cooperstown, Saratoga racing, local minor league games, etc.

Communications and Outreach – Toni Boughton reported that the subcommittee met this month and created a survey that will be used at the Niska- Day festivities to determine what seniors in Niskayuna want in terms of programming, trips, transportation, and meals. The subcommittee also requested purchase of a banner (\$50) to use for the table and pencils -with the name and # of senior center -that people could take with them after survey completion. The Town tentatively agreed to pay for both and suggested we order two signs so that one could be used for the Town bus in the Niska-Day parade. A discussion about senior center membership cards and merchant discounts was also held.

Fundraising- Nancy Marcello reported that the group had met and had several ideas for fundraising. She submitted a detailed document outlining these suggestions, which include a cookbook sale (to be ready by the holidays), a garage sale in the fall and an election-day bake sale as well as other ideas. We discussed possibly coordinating the garage sale with the annual craft fair in October at the Community Center.

Community Resources: Janice Mansfield reported that there were several mini-meetings held this month and that the committee has developed an extensive survey document which will be used when visiting other senior program sites. The subcommittee will meet this month and a schedule will be prepared for visiting various locations and shared with full committee. Anyone wishing to attend these site visits is welcome, as their availability allows. The subcommittee has also gathered information and is looking at “best practices” for senior centers –including other states. A discussion was held regarding the terminology of “seniors” versus “baby boomers” or “seniors in training as a way to possibly market our programs more broadly.

Follow-up items:

- Niska-Day: (1) Senior bus participation needs to be planned (2) we should have someone taking photos of the senior booth during the day, (3) banners and pencils need to be ordered ASAP (4) we need enough senior newsletters to distribute at the table.
- Coordination of date for craft fair and garage sale in October.
- Search for electronic version of senior cookbook.

The Senior Advisory Committee meetings will generally be held on the fourth Friday of each month at 10am at Niskayuna Town Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 25th at 10am.