

## Orion Township

### Senior Advisory Council

November 4, 2015

Members Present: Sharry Jones, Chuck Lorenze, David Mansfield, Penny Shults, Mark Thurber, George Hanley, Lisa Sokol, George Sinnott, Ian Locke, Dottie Kowalski, Bill Schramm, Jim Roback, Bob Hazzard, Glenn Smith

Members Absent: Delores Vovillia, Karen Knox

Meeting called to order at 9:21 AM by George Hanley

Minutes from previous meeting approved - Moved by Schramm and Seconded by Kowalski

ONTV - Ian Loche

ONTV is looking for new shows. Possibly new training session in January. Discussed message board for the building, one option is to use Government Channel 20 to broadcast to building. A big advantage would be that this option would also broadcast the messages to anyone on the cable or AT&T tuned to the Government Channel. There was discussion about doing a video of the Phragmites treatment process. George Hanley noted he had done an interview with ONTV about the new Phragmites Ordinance with an overview of Phragmites and a participating homeowner from the 2014 treatment program did another summarizing the successful outcome. He also noted that a commercial property owner was going to do an interview about his participation this year.

Friends of Orion Center Seniors - Sharry Jones

The Friends held a dinner/dance fund raiser that was successful, financial final results not known yet, but Alice Young will have the results at the next meeting of the Friends. The Friends will be sponsoring the Christmas Light Show Tour and will be providing Pizza and Transportation for the event which will cost will be around \$500 for the Friends. The Friends have provided porch furniture and a picnic table to the Orion Center in addition to TV's and other items in the past.

Library - Lisa presenting for Karen

The Library has placed mini libraries near the entrance to the Polly Ann Trail. In addition, these mini libraries are located in every park. The library has provided qualified personnel to replace Delores in the Orion Center building.

Lisa Sokol is working with the Library as well as other groups to re-invigorate the Orion Historical Society. There are many old pictures that are being scanned for preservation. ONTV will be producing a program to broadcast with many of the pictures being preserved. The Historical Society is putting together a separate web site for the photos and other information.

## Parks & Recreation and Seniors - Lisa Sokol

The Township has applied for a grant from the DIA called "Inside Out". The grant will allow the township to receive and display art in public places such as the Civic Center, Wildwood, Polly Ann Trail, the Orion

Center as well as the Library. Art in the Park will display the art objects in the parks to help promote our parks.

The Orion Center will be hosting the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th. The North Oakland Patriotic Band will perform and there will be a lady speaker for the event. The theme this year will be recognizing women and their role in the military.

Jim Marleau will be hosting a free showing of the movie Unbroken for veterans at AMC Great Lakes at 3 PM on November 11<sup>th</sup> with free pop and popcorn.

Lisa is working with the Library to start a book club "Reading in the Park".

There will be a meeting of the Orion Parks and Rec Advisory Council at Camp Agawam on Monday, November 23rd at 6 PM at Camp Agawam in the Alberichi Lodge. The meeting will deal with future plans for the camp and any interested parties may attend.

Bill Schramm advised members that the Homes for Autism will be holding a fund raiser Dinner/Dance at the Pine Knob Mansion on 11-21-2015 and he has tickets.

The new Newsletter is now available and is funded through advertisers, 5000 copies have been printed. Feedback on the Newsletter has been positive. Someone suggested putting the Newsletter in the mini libraries.

Orion Township has a new application for smart phones. It can be downloaded for free and will include the following information: Community Events, Maps, Contact List, Camera, Feedback, News and Alerts, Road Projects, Social Media, Pictures, Election Results, etc.

Credit cards will be able to be used at the Orion Center at the beginning of the year. The credit card system is "De-coupled" from the Treasurer's system which is already operational.

The facility HVAC system is still being worked on and training of local people will take place soon.

There have been several successful trips through the Orion Center.

Lisa noted that the monthly lunches with entertainment have been very successful with average attendance about 70. George H. noted that several individuals have mentioned how much they enjoyed the concert/lunches and would like to see them continue year-round, including both indoors and outdoors. Lisa noted that planning was going forward.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding budget as well as concerts in the park. There were some suggestions on how to increase attendance at these concerts. These included changing the concert nights to Friday, installing signage so people will know where the amphitheater is located, bathrooms and concession areas, etc.

There will be a budget hearing on Thursday, November 12th at 6 PM at the new No. 2 Fire Station on Giddings Rd. It was suggested that some Seniors attend to make a case for more concerts as well as insuring continued funding for Senior programs. A sub-group will meet on Thursday, Nov. 5th to determine what should be presented to the board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

George Sinnott (Acting Secretary)