

Charter Township of Orion

Senior Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2015

In attendance: Deloris VoVillia, Bob Hazzard, Mark Thurber, Sharry Jones, Chuck Lorenz, Dottie Kowalski, David Mansfield, George Sinnott, Don Whittaker, George Hanley, Lisa Sokol, James Jenkins, Karen Knox, Ian Loche

Not in attendance: William Schramm, Penny Shults

Meeting was called to order at 9:10.

Lisa updated the committee on all of the Social Media activity in comparison to other local organizations. We are currently getting a higher opening rate on Constant Contact communications than average. Facebook currently has 1970 likes and friends. Twitter has 268 followers, Instagram has 121 followers and Pinterest has 46 followers. Good activity on YouTube as well.

The Center has printed 5000 copies of the Senior Newsletter and 34,000 of the quarterly Outreach Brochure.

George Hanley introduced James Jenkins, the new Orion Art Center Director. James spoke about the latest successful fund raiser as well as the challenges the Center is facing. He noted that the Art Center needs to engage Community Partners and is looking for volunteers for a variety of activities, including the Dragon on the Lake weekend in August. In the discussion regarding programs and the need to coordinate across organizations, George Sinnott suggested the need for a Community Arts Council, which received a lot of positive comments as a project to move forward on. Another suggestion was to create a community calendar to coordinate activities and avoid possible conflicts. Joint efforts to provide volunteer support across organizations was also discussed.

George Hanley suggested a photo contest coordinated by the Arts Center, with exhibits at each of the participating partners to create cross-publicity and traffic. It could be senior specific or a community wide activity. More discussion to follow.

Lisa discussed various activities, including monthly lunches such as the upcoming Tiger Opening Day Party, and partnerships with various organizations, including the Beaumont Health Fair which attracted 90 individuals and the Wildlife Habitat with Waste Management which will include schools and volunteers involved in Bird watching & counting, Bat & Bird houses. A survey will be conducted on Camp Agawam.

Ian Locke stated that an afternoon Studio Production class will be held for seniors starting on May 21. ONTV will be videoing the debate on the new Sales Tax Proposal on April 7 at 7pm at Canterbury Village.

Delores pointed out the great article in the Orion Register regarding the new Library renovations. Group comments were in agreement. Karen Knox pointed out that the week of April 13th is National Library Week and they will be giving away some small items as part of the promotion. An author will be at the library on April 18 at 10:30 to talk about his book about his 3000 mile bike ride across America. The Friends of the Library main fundraiser, "Passport to Spring" will be held on May 16 at 7 PM, with a Mexican theme Tickets are \$35.

Sharry Jones gave an activity update for the "Friends of Orion Center Seniors". They will be sponsoring a concert with the North Oakland Dixieland Band, the date still to be determined and will also donate \$3,000 for 3 new handicap accessible picnic tables for the rear patio of the Orion Center. They will also

host a Columbus day dinner and will have a table at the Senior Expo to be held at the Orion Center. It was noted that the Friends need to do more promotional communications and George Sinnott offered to do an "Active Living" ONTV show.

Mark Thurber indicated that Oxford had a portable movie screen that might be borrowed to support showing movies in Lake Orion.

Mark Thurber thanked the board for the letter sent to the Township Board requesting that Camp Agawam be kept as a recreational facility and not sold. The group held further discussion on Camp Agawam and it was determined that we should not let the issue drop.

George Hanley will head up a smaller group to develop recommendations on a number items including potentially requesting the Township Board to indicate its support for retaining the status of Camp Agawam for future generations, talking up the availability of the camp for activities currently being conducted remotely by clubs, churches and schools unaware of the local facilities and promoting volunteer efforts across the organizations represented in the Advisory Council. George Sinnott suggested that the Township hold some concerts at Camp Agawam to attract people to the facility and create awareness. In response to other questions about "what's there?". Lisa suggested that we hold our next meeting at Camp Agawam so we can experience the facility. As part of a March small group request for informational material, Lisa showed a new trifold brochure designed by Community Programs to be used in general and/or possibly focused on senior activities.

Dottie Kowalski suggested recruiting LOHS seniors with community service requirements as volunteers. The Chamber of Commerce will be holding an expo at the High School and volunteers are needed.

Mark Thurber stated that the Township had just acquired a parcel of property adjacent to the Polly Ann Trail that should be used for handicapped parking. He also stated that the Lone Ranger event will again take place in Oxford on August 1 and pointed out that the NOTA millage will again be up for vote in Addison Township and a favorable vote is needed to restore expanded service to the area.

Dottie suggested that Senior Services look at bringing the AARP driving test to the Orion Center.

George Hanley thanked the group for the vigorous discussion and exchange of ideas, noting that he will followup with individuals interested in being part of the smaller group working on recommendations for an Arts Council, volunteering, Camp Agawam utilization, sponsorships and resources.

The meeting adjourned at 10:38.

Respectfully submitted, George Sinnott