

Charter Township of Orion  
Meeting Minutes  
Senior Advisory Council  
May 7, 2014

Members present: Glendon Smith, George Hanley, Lisa Sokol, Nancy Fischer, Evelyn Doyle, Bob Hazzard, George Sinnott, Elinor Smith, David Mansfield, Penny Shults, Mike Nebel, Ian Locke, Ed Ratzenberger, Bill Schramm, Delores Vovillia, Paul Knasinski

Members absent: Mark Thurber, Karen Knox

Guests: Marion Ginopolis, Superintendent of Schools; Lynn Gustafson and Jim Barnhart, NOTA

Delores - Library Report

New large print books are available

Book Sale this week

Outreach pre-summer kickoff taking place

Dr. Bob will not be teaching computer classes for the summer, but will return in Sept.

Dr. Bob will conduct a photo editing class on May 15th for those interested

Because of job pressures, Penny will no longer be doing the Orion Review monthly news article, George Hanley volunteered to draft the May article.

Marion Ginopolis presented the current state of affairs in our School District (Please see the attached presentation). Orion is one of the top 10 districts in Oakland County, many good programs taking place in the schools including Battle of the Books and great art presentations. She is most proud of the new program to prevent suicide. The program started small. However, over 4,000 students have been trained to recognize depression and stress which may lead to suicide. The program is so successful it may become a statewide program. Also, they have initiated a "Cross the Line" program that encourages students with specific issues to step forward. The school system continues to have a shortfall in revenue needed to continue programs and will continue the "Schools of Choice" program in an attempt to obtain more revenue from the State.

Lynn Gustafson presented for NOTA, please see the attached presentation for details. NOTA is anticipating a shortfall of \$425,000 in operating budget plus another \$105,000 in capital improvements funding due to cutbacks from federal and state grants. It is imperative that the affected townships pass a new millage to continue the current level of service. If the millage does not pass, current routes will be reduced from 13 to 7. Jim Barnhart stressed the importance of passing the new millage.

Ian Locke - ONTV Report

ONTV will be working with Lisa supporting and producing a series of programs with Beaumont Hospital

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ONTV will be starting a new 5 week training course for Seniors as well as others

ONTV will be rerunning interviews with veterans from past wars on Memorial Day.

Improvements have been made to viewing ONTV on mobile devices

Current program with Seniors is working well, with George S. and Evelyn selected as "Producers of the Year".

Nancy Fischer presented the upcoming programs for Seniors (Separate Report). Nancy also discussed items placed in the suggestion box. One item was to provide coffee tables to put drinks and eats on while playing cards, Lisa will investigate.

George Hanley presented a report for the Friends of Orion Center Seniors (Please note the name change from Friends of Orion Senior Center). The Friends are helping to support a second concert in the park by the North Oakland Concert Band on August 5th. The Friends will be selling water and prepackaged snacks at all summer concerts in an effort to raise funds. The Friends are also considering a Dinner Dance to raise funds. George H. also discussed the Kroger Community Rewards Program where you can sign-up to participate with your Kroger's Plus Shoppers Card number and Kroger makes a quarterly contribution to Friends based on the percentage of Friends member total spending as a percentage of total rewards program membership purchases (Except gas). Sign up is relatively straight forward and there is no cost to the individual participant. Penny suggested that the Orion Center send out an e-mail with sign up instructions to senior members of the Orion Center, encouraging individuals to sign-up to for the program.

George Sinnott presented the activity with ONTV. Programs produced were a 30 minute program on how to live young with Peggy Bartz, a 30 minute show promoting our Ham Radio Club, and a short advertisement for the Library Gala. Planned activities include a show on the "Bickersons", and additional veterans interviews for Memorial Day.

Lisa presented her Directors Report of activities at the Orion Center. Membership for Seniors is now up to 1,443 and continuing to grow. The new partnership with Beaumont hospital is creating a lot of additional activity, please see her report for details.

Penny is looking for additional Election Inspectors, apply if you are interested.

Evelyn and Ed suggested a "Thank You" luncheon for our firemen and policemen, funding is an issue and Ed Ratzenberger will investigate sources of revenue.

The meeting adjourned at 11:26