

Charter Township of Orion

Meeting Minutes

Senior Advisory Council March 5, 2014

Members present: Ed Ratzenberger, Glendon Smith, Ian Locke, Bob Hazzard, Delores VoVillia, George Hanley, Mark Thurber, Karen Knox, Mike Nebel, Penny Shults, David Mansfield, Lisa Sokol, George Sinnott, Evelyn Doyle

Members not present: Bill Schramm, Elanor Smith, Nancy Fischer

Meeting called to order at 9:06 AM

Minutes to February meeting approved with corrections (Corrected minutes attached).

Lisa will add the names of Senior Advisory Committee to the Township web site, minutes will also be posted.

Lisa discussed the success to date with Constant Contact. Mailings were made to 4171 people, acceptance has been very good with over 40% of recipients opening the mailing. An effort is taking place to reformat mailings to be more friendly to mobile devices. Membership for Orion Center seniors is now at 1383 people.

As part of an effort to reach out to home bound seniors, Lisa is investigating low cost cell phones for seniors that do not have internet or computers. Lisa will work with Karen to possibly put together a Senior Expo for technical devices for seniors. Mark Thurber suggested a program having people donate their old phones and tablets for seniors that do not currently have the technology. Ian Locke noted that ongoing costs beyond equipment acquisition need to be considered. ONTV (Mitch) will be conducting a class on the I-Pad and tablets at the Orion Center.

The Township Board has approved Beaumont Hospital as our Wellness Center Partner, meetings will be held soon to plan services and programs. There was also a discussion about the possibility of a video series regarding health and wellness issues.

The Orion Center is experiencing some success with its sponsorship programs, Waste Management has expressed an interest in partnering with Wildlife Habitat Council and Habitat Events, this includes bat houses, bluebird houses, and possibly starting a "Beaker's Club" with citizen participation.

There will be several special events coming up, St. Patrick's Day Luncheon, March 17; Tiger's Opening Day Luncheon, March 31; Volunteer Recognition, April 16; School Play "Legally Blonde", April 23; Blood Drive, May 12; Senior Caregiver and Expo, May 21;

Vending machines have been installed at the Center.

Lisa is looking at the possibility of Community Gardens at Friendship Park. There was discussion about individuals who might have interest and aptitude for helping out.

Evelyn and Penny have been successful in getting their first two articles published on senior activities at the Orion Center into the Orion Review, the newspaper has agreed to print additional articles on the third week of every month.

Mark Thurber has offered to meet with anyone regarding Orion Township's investment strategies and details of our investments. He will also be involved again with the Lone Ranger program for 2014, it will include a shooting contest at Bald Mountain shooting range. Mark also noted that NOTA operations have been moved to the bus depot near Blanche Sims school. There was discussion and a follow up item to investigate how/where senior info and communications materials could be put on the buses. There was also discussion about mechanisms for sponsoring rides for seniors. Some seniors are experiencing being "wait-listed" for rides and NOTA is considering a 0.25 millage request for the August ballot. The group discussed having NOTA present at an upcoming meeting.

The Township Board has approved a part time Maintenance person, he will work on Monday and Thursday evenings and support rental activity. There is also a posting for a part-time Programmer for community programs to be filled.

George Hanley reported on Friends of Orion Center activities. The Valentines Day luncheon was held with approximately 75 people in attendance. 14 of the people in attendance did sign up to become "Friends" members and 6 from our Council have also signed up. Lisa has prepared requests for the "Friends" to assist in funding weight equipment for the exercise room and a request to fund part of a North Oakland Band Concert. George stated that these would be acted upon at their next meeting.

George Sinnott reported on the ONTV activity. There has been little activity in the last 30 days because of people being out of town. However, there are activities scheduled for the remainder of this month. We will be doing videos on the old radio show "the Bickersons". Also Jim Roback has just returned from a trip to Israel and Jordan and we will schedule a show with Jim, this should be accomplished within the next 30 days. George will be interviewing Ed Peters regarding the Center's Ham Radio operation.

ONTV will be conducting another orientation and studio class for seniors

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 2nd at 9 AM

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM

Submitted: George Sinnott, Secretary

Attached - Directors Report