

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 3, 2019

MINUTES

A MEETING of the Senior Advisory Committee was held on Monday, June 3, 2019, at the offices of Downers Grove Township, 4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515.

1. Call to Order

In the absence of Chairperson Gaye Wagner, Co-Chairperson Ralph Beardsley called the meeting to order at 1:36pm.

2. Roundtable Introductions

Roundtable introductions were made by all present. Guests at the Meeting included Glenn Gentile, a Downers Grove resident interested in becoming a member of the Council and lending it his IT expertise, Janet Garreau, Executive Director of Interfaith Community Partners, Jeannie Iseman, Executive Director of Garden Works, and James Jandora, NASA Ambassador. Attached to these Minutes is the Sign-In sheet for the Meeting.

3. Review/Approve Minutes

Co-Chairperson Ralph Beardsley asked all present to review the Minutes of the May 6, 2019 Meeting. Pat Klebenow made a motion to approve said Minutes, and was seconded by Robert Petranek. A unanimous voice vote approved said Minutes.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Committee Reports

A. There was no Chair/Co-Chair report.

B. Karen Kelly, Township Trustee, related that the Board had ordered an engineering feasibility study to assess the potential of adding a building to the Township property, which would house the food pantry and a large meeting room which would be used for various senior services activities. With regard to the food pantry, the new building would allow clients to access the food pantry themselves and choose their food items versus the current method of handing out pre-packaged bags of food.

C. (a) Robert Petranek outlined the Senior Survival Series. The next Lunch and Learn program is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, and the subject will be an informative celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. Mr. James Jandora, a NASA Ambassador, will lead the NASA talk, as well as speak about communicating effectively with your local representatives concerning the new initiatives recently voted upon by State government.

(b) Cathy Rager said she is continuing to arrange monthly FFDGTS fundraisers. The next fundraiser, scheduled for August 19, will be with Kelsey's Resale Shop in LaGrange. The upcoming Rotary Fest in Downers Grove is another earning opportunity for FFDGTS. If FFDGTS volunteers work 25 shifts at Rotary Fest, the organization will earn \$1,000. Cathy noted that she currently has 21 shifts filled and is still looking to fill 4 more shifts.

(c) There was no Dial-A-Ride report.

6. Village & County News/Updates

A. Troy Agema, DuPage County Sheriff's Office, was absent from the meeting. Lynn Dralle, Westmont Fire Department, stated that "Crusin' Nights" in Westmont will be held every Thursday in downtown Westmont. The "Taste of Westmont" will be held in July, as will the July 4 celebration to be held at Ty Warner Park.

B. (a) Adding to Lynn Dralle's comments, Alice Krampits noted that the Gregg Museum (115 South Linden Street, Westmont), the former residence of William L. Gregg, a noted brick manufacturer at the turn of the 20th century, and currently the home of the Westmont Historical Society, will be hosting an ice cream social on June 9. Additionally, at the July 4 celebration at Ty Warner Park, a special "barnyard bingo" will be played to raise funds for Gregg Museum.

(b) Sheri Henderson gave a report on upcoming Burr Ridge Park District events. Cooking classes are regularly held at the Park District and residents and other interested parties are encouraged to check the Park District for dates and times. Additionally, Mary Gail Bennett, a local chef and author, will be conducting a food tour that will include stops at Chicago's Berghoff Restaurant, the Farmer's Market at Daley Plaza, and Greektown. Friday night concerts are held at the Burr Ridge Promenade. Notable groups will be a Four Seasons tribute band on July 12, and an ABBA tribute band on July 30. Sheri encouraged everyone to arrive early for the concerts.

(c) Kate Vogts of the Community House commented on the success of the Senior Expo held there on May 21, which was sponsored by MORE. She said there were 30 tables with information, 3 speakers and 75-80 attendees.

C. Julie Larson was absent from the meeting, so there was no report from DuPage County Senior Services.

D. George Goodwin, a volunteer with AARP, discussed the need for volunteers to be trained to handle car care clinic measurements. Goodwin stated that more car care clinics could be held if they had more volunteers to work them. To qualify, volunteers must attend a four-hour training session to learn the 12 "fit points" counseled at every car care clinic. Also, AARP is in need of funds to print manuals for the training sessions. It was decided that George would be given more time at the July meeting to further discuss this point.

6. Old Business/New Business

Dr. Floyd Mizener brought up the Downers Grove Lions Club turning 93 this year. The Club is trying to encourage inter-organization cooperation and, on that note, Floyd announced a Lions Club wine tasting fundraiser to be held on Thursday, June 13, at the Wine Shop located in

the northwest quadrant at 75th and Lemont Road. The cost is \$25/person.

7. Presentation/Questions

A. Jeannie Iseman, Executive Director of Garden Works, gave an overview of her organization. Garden Works was started in the Pacific Northwest to essentially teach people how to plant victory gardens. The people in need usually have a “food insecurity”; they are not necessarily poor, but nutritious food is unavailable to them because of lack of transportation or a lack of nutritious food inventory in their immediate area. Currently, Garden Works processes 100 applications per week. However, they are concerned because they receive very few applications from senior citizens. They have started to contact local senior housing communities to offer their services. Accepted applicants are provided with a 4’x8’ cedar raised garden bed, as well as the dirt and seedlings necessary to provide them with quality, fresh produce to add to their diet. The criteria for acceptance currently tracks with Federal standards, or if they are receiving food from a food pantry. The per family cost to Garden Works is \$250.00.

B. James Jandora is a volunteer Solar System Ambassador for NASA. He visits various venues and usually speaks about all the NASA inventions that have benefitted the general public, such as radial tires, nylon, prosthetic arms, etc. He is currently speaking on the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. Mr. Jandora related that NASA was formed during the Eisenhower administration. He said that every country has a vested interest in tracking space activity. All satellites are fueled by solar energy, which is another benefit to us.

Jandora will be speaking at the June 13 Lunch n’ Learn Program about how to effectively contact and communicate with your local representatives.

8. Adjournment

Upon motion to adjourn made by Pat Klebenow, seconded by Robert Petranek, and by unanimous voice vote, the Meeting was adjourned at 2:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Rager, Recording Secretary