

St. Joseph County COA

Senior Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

March 20th, 2018

Members present: Catherine Brady, Marge Perech, Wilma Gillette, Regina Sanders, Laura Klinger, and Paul Pursel.

Staff present: Ruth Mancina (Marketing and Life Enrichment Manager), Tim Stoll (Executive Director), and Kelsey Larsh (Life Enrichment Coordinator).

Meeting called to order at 9:07am.

Marketing manager, Ruth Mancina informed members present that previous months meeting minutes should be posted in the Enrichment Center lobby for members to review and refresh. To revisit topics from last meeting, Ruth informed the group that new bingo cards had been ordered and seemed to be working well. The microphone cord has broken again but will be replaced in the near future.

Ruth informed the group that there is still money left in the 701 fund which was raised by the seniors in years past. She urged the group to begin thinking of items that would be beneficial or are desired with the Enrichment Center. Members suggested a patio awning or pergola to shade from the sun.

As requested in the past meeting, a short description of each exercise class is now written in the newsletter. Member Marge Perech informed meeting attendees that Zumba Gold is no longer offered to COA members through the Doyle Center due to lack of participation.

Satisfaction surveys continue to be turned in and soon the results will be gathered to be shared with the seniors.

Member Paul Pursel expressed concern for the low temperature in the game room making use of the room very uncomfortable for card players. Tim reported intent to have the heating company come to resolve the issue.

Ruth explained the newly implemented printing regulations. Any COA member can print 10 pages per day for free. After 10 pages, the member should pay \$0.25/page in order to limit the amount of personal printing being done. Concern was voiced that members using the computers may be adding or deleting programs and that the speed of the computers continues to decline. A suggestion was made to not completely shut down the computers after each use as that may allow to computer to be ready for use by next person sooner.

Member Catherine Brady made a suggestion of placing disinfecting wipes in each of the Enrichment Center bathrooms for cleanup as sometimes individuals are not cleaning up after themselves.

Tim provided an update on the new senior center in Three Rivers reporting that the COA is hopeful that construction will begin within the next few months and that sub contracts will go out for bid soon. He reported that it is estimated that a 1-bedroom apartment will cost approximately \$725/month and a 2-bedroom apartment will cost approximately \$825/month, both including utilities with the exception of cable and internet. An open house will be held for the seniors to explore the new center when

construction wraps up. Unfortunately, fixing the pool is not feasible and it will be filled in to increase floor space in the atrium area.

Since the newly implemented changes to the restaurant program, members continue to voice that portions of breakfast meals have decreased. Member Paul Pursel reported that he has continually great service from Colon restaurant, Phil and Dawn's. Tim reported that the COA may need to revisit the topic of portions with the participating restaurants in order to increase portion sizes to more reasonable amount.

Ruth informed the group that a Citizen's Academy held by the Michigan State Police Department is to be held at the Enrichment Center beginning on May 4th and lasting for 8 weeks. This academy gives the public the chance to understand the role of law enforcement within the community.

Member Catherine Brady reported that local libraries are presenting on a book called American Pain regarding the opioid epidemic and thought that members of the COA might enjoy and benefit from a presentation on the topic.

Ruth informed members of the upcoming Senior Resource Fair to be held from 11am-1:30pm on May 23rd at the Enrichment Center. The resource fair is free to seniors and a light lunch will be provided. This will be posted in the upcoming newsletter and flyers will be made.

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held on April 25th at A Place in Time in Three Rivers at 5pm.

The recent history talk was a success and members reported hopes that these presentations will continues. Members suggested presentations on speak easies, purgatory, and underground bootlegging.

The next Sturgis Senior Advisory Council meeting will take place on May 15th at 9am.

Meeting adjourned at 9:53am.