

St. Joseph County COA

Senior Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2018

Meeting called to order at 9:05am.

Members Present: Mable Dillingham, Donna Dick, Thelma James, Rosemary Reed, Byron & Bea Folk, Paul & Mike Ballard, Sue Fellows and Mary Millard.

Staff Present: Marketing & Life Enrichment Manager Ruth Mancina

A brief discussion was held about the name of our new center, which is the Rivers Enrichment Center. In Sturgis it will be called the Oaks Enrichment Center. Ruth explained that this will give the COA some consistency when it comes to its senior centers. The COA Advisory Board voted at its last Board meeting to approve the new names.

Paula and Mike Ballard said the new Bingo machine is working well and they like using it. They continue to try and seek out more Bingo callers so that the job does not fall to one person all the time. We do have about four people who do it pretty regularly right now and that is good.

A discussion was held on the restaurant program and that at the Main Street Café they do not offer anything to drink since the change in tickets. Discussion ensued about how some of the restaurants offer coffee and no milk and others just serve coffee. Paula said it was disappointing that Mr. B's Dairy Bar only lets you get chips as a side when you order a hamburger and no French fries.

Ruth indicated that the COA will continue to monitor the restaurant program and continue to encourage the restaurants to explore new menu options now that they have the freedom to do so. There are also plans to add some new restaurants to the program to give seniors more choices.

Thelma expressed concern that the gift certificates have an expiration date on them since some people receive very large gift certificates from their family and might not be able to expend all the money in one year. Ruth said that would not be a problem and we would never not let someone use their gift certificate until it was fully expended.

Thelma also expressed concern about some of the books that were on the bookshelves in Three Rivers. She felt some of the books were too explicit. Ruth explained that she does go through the books periodically; however censoring what books we have on the bookshelves can also pose its own set of problems. Rosemary Reed said that people have the right to choose what books they want to read or not read. The bookshelves are getting pretty crowded and the group said the hardcovers are not very popular. Ruth said she would work with Nancy on thinning out some of the hardcovers.

The next meeting in Three Rivers will be held on June 19th at 9am.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.