

Haverford Township - Senior Citizens Advisory Council

Meeting: Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Time: **6:30 p.m.

Location: 1014 Darby Rd., Havertown Pa., 19083 - Room B

Agenda

Call to order

Roll Call

Approval of November 14, 2023, meeting minutes

Annual Re-Organization/Establish meeting schedule:

Business in process:

- Senior Night Out Programs
- Outreach Efforts for 2024
- Proposed Programs / Objectives for 2024

Emerginin Business

- Viability of a tax rebate program for senior citizen volunteers
- Eldernet
- Senior Program and resources coordinator

Public Comment

Good and Welfare

Adjournment

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Minutes

Mr. Selkowitz called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM—an agreed upon earlier start time for this meeting since the January meeting was postponed due to inclement weather conditions.

Recorded as present: Carla Rodgers (Ward 1), Christine McLaughlin (Ward 2), Margaret Lang (Ward 3), Peggy Murr (Ward 4), Diane Amadio (Ward 7), Rita Waters (Ward 8), Scott Selkowitz (Ward 9), Victor Barsky (At-Large Member), Aimee Cuthbertson (Assistant Township Manager), and Conor Quinn (Commissioner Representative). Jan O'Rourke (Ward 5) was unable to attend. Ward 6: Vacancy

The Council unanimously approved the November 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes.

Scott Selkowitz announced that at some point during 2024, he and his wife plan to re-locate to the Hilton Head, SC area. While such a move is in its preliminary stages, numerous months away from actually coming to fruition, Mr. Selkowitz asked the Council whether or not he should step down as Chairperson at this time. The Council unanimously requested he remain as Chairperson for his remaining tenure. No other changes were recommended at this time.

During 2024, the Senior Citizen Advisory Council will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month, to be scheduled as follows: January 16, February 20, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, September 17, October 15**, and November 19. No meetings will be held on August 20 and December 17. If there is a Senior Open House, tentatively planned for October, that would occur in lieu of the October 15 meeting.

The “Senior Night Out” Program sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department kicked-off its 2024 season with “Game Nite” on January 24. Over 45 seniors participated, and the feedback received was excellent. Those in attendance would like to see “Game Night” repeated and there were multiple suggestions that many of the games be available in the CREC lobby for daily use.

The balance of the 2024 schedule includes: February, 28, Movie Night; March 27, Karaoke Night; and April 24, Pot-Luck Dinner. The program runs from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

A significant objective for 2024 is to expand and improve upon community outreach efforts within respective wards involving each Council member working in conjunction with the Commissioner. Each Council member was asked to further explore available options and report back at the March 19, 2024 meeting.

The Council would like to co-sponsor with Parks and Recreation a second annual Senior Open House Program, preferably scheduled for early October 2024, replicating the successful program format and offerings from this past October. Dr. Carla Rodgers recommended a number of seminar topics that she would be interested in presenting.

Scott Selkowitz will follow-up with Jackie O'Doherty and report back at the March, 2024 meeting. Recommended dates: Either Sunday, October 6 or Sunday, October 13, 2024.

Point of Information: In some locales, there are programs in effect that offer tax rebates in exchange for public service volunteer hours provided by senior volunteers. Aimee Cuthbertson provided clarification as to its current applicability in Pennsylvania: Currently it only is applicable to school districts wishing to participate, not municipal governments.

Ann O'Brien, Interim Executive Director of ELDERNET, reached out to Aimee Cuthbertson to announce a change in leadership and to potentially re-engage discussions about service provision within Haverford Township. While there is interest in the types of programs and services offered by this agency, prior attempts for service provision within the Township were previously rejected by ELDERNET's Board of Directors. Aimee Cuthbertson was going to brief Ann on prior developments and suggested she receive her Board's conceptual approval prior to the re-engagement of any further discussions. Follow-up will be provided at the next meeting.

Scott Selkowitz presented the idea of the Township creating a position of a part-time Senior Program Resources Coordinator, responsible for gathering information regarding programs, services, and resources available for our Senior Township residents and communicating through a dedicated platform—such as through our established Senior Information Page on the Township's website. Rita Waters further suggested that such support could be provided through an internship opportunity (perhaps through a social services internship).

Following a Council discussion, Aimee Cuthbertson indicated that she would review this suggestion and concept with Township Administration with feedback provided at our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.