

MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2022
MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON AGING
American Legion Memorial Civic Center
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053

Pursuant to proper notice in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the regular meeting of the Advisory Commission on Aging was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Assistant to the Village Administrator Tom Friel who led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called. In attendance were:

Members of Commission Present: Alma Labunski, Marilyn Sneider, Agnes Quinn, Hope Hornstein, Lea Beaubien, Nancy Lanning (arrived at 1:24pm)

Members Absent: Josephine Meehan,

Village/Staff: Thomas J. Friel, Assistant to the Village Administrator
Eileen Scanlon-Harford
Liz Schild, MG Social Worker
Ovie Salgado, V of MG
Kate Paz
Melissa Mayberry, MGPL

Absent: Jeff Wait, MG Park District

Visitors Present: Trustee Bill Grear

A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

T. Friel encouraged those present to review the minutes from the April 12, 2022 meeting. Motion to approve from E. Harford. Commissioner Hornstein seconded. The minutes were approved on a voice vote.

Old Business

AARP – Friendly Voice Program

Ovie Salgado reported that AARP is scheduled to provide a short presentation to the attendees of the September Senior Luncheon. Ovie will continue contact with the AARP representative in an effort to make the operational aspects of this program more user friendly.

Mather Update

Kate Paz briefed the Commission that she has recently separated from Mather. However, she was able to provide an update to the group confirming that the classes for the “pilot” Voice First program were completed at the end of April. A total of 25 Morton Grove households participated. Kate also explained that a survey was distributed to participants at the end of the program in an effort to provide data regarding the program’s effectiveness. Mather representative Sarah Hoops will be responsible to provide aggregate summary data regarding the program in the future.

Older Adult Transportation. T Friel reported that efforts to market the taxi voucher program will be increased in the coming months. . Participation remains decreased since the pandemic. T. Friel reminded the group of the operation of MG's current "paper coupon" program.

New Business

T. Friel briefed the group regarding Mather's history as a Morton Grove partner in senior services since 2015. Mather (corporate) has decided to discontinue their Community Initiatives program. TF added that, as a result, Telephone Topics has been discontinued. He encouraged Commissioners to continue conversations with MG senior constituents in an effort to identify any potential decrease in services experienced due to Mather's departure. Both Ovie and Liz Schild remain to address senior related or social service related community needs.

MG Senior Programming

Ovie Salgado reported the attendance at various programs (Thai Chi, Chair Yoga, etc.). 471 seniors visited and participated in some form of services in April. The April Senior Luncheon had 80 attendees. Ovie reminded the Commission that the July and August Senior Luncheons will be held at the Niles Senior Center with the combined participation of both communities. Ovie and Commissioner Hornstein updated the group regarding their recent efforts to reconstitute the Humanities programming. Three new senior exercise programs were offered: Forever Young, Chair Pilates and Chair Strength. Ovie reported regarding the instructor-led programs. BP screenings by Presence will continue on the first Friday of each month.

The "I'm Not an Artist" program will begin in April. Thursday night concerts will begin again. Commissioner Lanning pointed out the value & diligence of Ovie in his duties. The group concurred.

Village Spring Postcard

T Friel distributed copies of the Spring Postcard to the group. TF emphasized the upcoming Document Destruction & Electronic Recycling event on April 16. Commissioner Sneider asked about expired medication recycling. T Friel updated the Commission regarding the collection of medications at the Civic Center.

Village Strategic Plan Update

T Friel briefed the Commission regarding upcoming efforts by the Village to update the Strategic Plan and encouraged members to submit their names via the Village website if they were interested in participating.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Beaubien ask whether or not "day trips" offered by the Park District would be offered in the future. Ovie passed on the open invitation from the Niles Senior Center to MG Senior to join in on any day trips offered. The question will be directed to Director Wait at the next opportunity.

Commissioner Sneider reminded the group that day trips were also available through Maine Township. Discussion ensued. Ovie, Liz and the Commissioners will research other day trip availability and report back. Commissioner Labunski will present a program on Adverse Drug Reactions at the April Humanities program.

Commissioner Sneider expressed concern regard the unmet medical equipment needs of residents. TF noted that Ovie and Liz are very effective at collaborating and reaching out to residents who make their needs known.

Commissioners Quinn and Hornstein had no reports.

Clerk Harford emphasized the importance of continued publicity (via the newsletter) of available services. She also recognized the value of both the Social Worker and the Senior Activity Coordinator.

Trustee Gear had no formal report but expressed his compliments regarding the Commission's commitment and work.

Other Staff Reports

MGPL: M. Mayberry stated that the MGPL newsletter should be in mailboxes within the next week. In addition, she explained the MGPL's commitment to reconstitute "hybrid" programming for senior i.e. both in-person and on line. Book Discussions will return. A program regarding assisting disabled persons with technology challenges will be offered emphasizing the availability of "adaptive technologies". Melissa briefed the group regarding the availability of the "Book a Librarian" program as a senior technology assistance opportunity.

MG Social Worker: Liz re-introduced herself to the group and summarized her ability to connect with all residents and refer them to resources specific to their needs in the area. She briefed the group regarding the availability of a volunteer program that offers disabled seniors rides to doctor appointments. The PACE Para-Transit service was discussed. Commissioner Hornstein asked Liz if services through the Northshore Senior Center were being used. Liz stated that the NSS was a valuable resource in our area and remains available for use.

MG Park District: No report.

Comments from Visitors – No comments.

Adjournment

Adjournment moved by Clerk Harford, seconded by Commissioner Labunski. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 2:10pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **1:00 pm, June 14, 2022** and will be held at the American Legion Memorial Civic Center.

T Friel Acting Chairperson