

Advisory Committee for Senior Citizens

A regular meeting of the Advisory Committee for Senior Citizens was held on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009 at the Troy Community Center. Chair Bud Black called the meeting to order at 1:05PM.

Present: James Berar, Member
Frank Shier, Member
David Ogg, Member
Bud Black, Member
Betty Coven, Member
JoAnn Thompson, Member
Carla Vaughan, Staff

Excused: Jo Rhoads, Pauline Noce, Merrill Dixon

Visitors: Paula Fleming, Nino Licari

Approval of Minutes

Resolution # SC-2009-01-001
Moved by Betty Coven
Seconded by Frank Shier

RESOLVED, That the Minutes of Nov. 6, 2008 be approved as submitted.

Yes: 6
No: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Visitor Comments

Paula Fleming discussed upcoming school district events and news.

OLD BUSINESS

Traffic: Mr Berar informed the committee about Senator Pappageroge's proposed bill that will give drivers with minor traffic citations an alternative to points on their driver's license. They would be required to complete a certified basic driver improvement course and pay all fees associated with the course.

NEW BUSINESS

Suggestion Box: Carla reported that there were two suggestions to air the chair exercise class on cable TV. She is checking with the cable department to see if this can be done. There were two suggestions to list the benefits of the Senior Fitness class in the newsletter to get more participants. Carla reported that she does include articles about the benefits of exercise at least a couple of times a year in the newsletter although not specific to that class.

We have printed testimonials about specific classes and she will talk to the Senior Fitness class participants about that. There was one suggestion for evening senior programs and Carla handed out a flyer detailing the 15 programs for seniors that are offered in the evening. This person wanted a current events discussion group in particular. A similar daytime group folded last year, but Carla will see if there is interest in an evening group. There was one comment that the snow and ice is not cleared from the handicapped parking spaces. This was forwarded to the parks superintendent and he has addressed the issue.

Property Taxes: The Committee invited City Assessor Nino Licari to talk about property taxes, specifically if they could be paid by the month. He said that they could be paid by the month, but he does not recommend it as people tend to fall behind. He also discussed how seniors can defer their taxes, how they can qualify for a poverty exemption, how they can dispute their assessment, and how foreclosures in the neighborhood affect home values. He encouraged seniors to call him if they had any additional questions.

Advisory Board Reference Book: Mr. Berar brought up some questions as to whether certain guidelines outlined in that book were being followed, and it was determined that they were.

Bylaw Amendment: The Committee decided to revert to monthly meetings except July, August and December and the following resolution was passed:

Resolution # SC-2009-01-002
Moved by Betty Coven
Seconded by Jim Berar

RESOLVED, That the Advisory Committee for Senior Citizens meet every month except July, August and December.

Yes: 6
No: 0

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

Park Board: No report.

Senior Program: Carla reported that HAP is sponsoring the aquatic exercise class again this winter. An intergenerational pickleball tournament was held on December 28 and it was full with 32 teams. SHARP is helping seniors install their digital TV boxes. SHARP has received a community service award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association.

Medi-Go: No report.

OLHSA: No report.

Oakland County Senior Advisory Board: No report.

Comments

Jim Berar read highlights from a newspaper article about tax changes.

David Ogg announced that Beaumont has a new oncology hospice.

Frank Shier announced that the Heart of the Hills Players have a show called ***Funny Stuff*** coming up at the Troy Community Center.

JoAnn Thompson expressed frustration about her driveway being plowed in when the streets are plowed.

Betty coven announced that those over age 70.5 do not have to take the required minimum distribution out of their IRA in 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bud Black, Chair

Carla Vaughan, Secretary