Senior Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2017
76 South Orange Avenue
Conference Room 2

Attendance: Larry Aronson, Lenore Berkman, Peg Cinberg, Sam Convissor, Shirley Gordon, Jackie Herships, Sandy Lublin, Tonia Moore, Nan Samons
Age Friendly Coordinator for Maplewood and South Orange: Cathy Rowe
Trustee: Karen Hartshsorn-Hilton

1. Meeting Called to order at 6:45 pm
2. Minutes of July 18, 2017 meeting approved
3. Healthy Downtowns
   October 12, 2017 at the SOPAC Loft
   The Village Center Alliance organized this economic development event.
   Sheena Collum is hosting and is the key note speaker; this is posted on her Facebook page.
   Jackie mentioned she would like Home Sharing included in this event.
4. Larry has served as secretary for the past three years; he would like to pass this responsibility onto Peg; this was moved, seconded and passed.
5. Meals on Wheels
   This is a federal program with the funds distributed to the counties – Chrill Care serves Montclair, one of the two towns in Essex (the other is Newark) to receive funds through this program. SAGE is the recipient in Union County.
   Cathy never received a Chrill Care application and they have heard nothing from St. Barnabas. A rent party might help; but she is not sure how.
   In the past month a senior called the Town Hall for emergency food assistance; Cathy connected with OLS' Food Pantry and St. Joseph's Food Pantry and received and delivered food to the individual. The senior had paid a medical bill and had no money left for food. Marian Roffman may have done this in the past.
   Sam suggested we call the local towns around us to find out what they are doing about Meals on Wheels and programs like it, including emergency services. Millburn has a much more integrated relationship with SAGE-First Aid Squad, a Social Worker, as well as a Meals on Wheels relationship.
   Karen said Chrill Care should be recalled/emailed/etc until we get a response. One person (either Shirley or Tonia) will go with Cathy Rowe to meet with Chrill Care whenever the meeting is set up.
   The MEND (Meeting Emergency Needs with Dignity) contact should be sent to Cathy.
   Jackie pointed out that there is a church in Maplewood that serves meals to seniors (near DeHart Center).
   The question of having a commitment to having a program to feed hungry seniors in South Orange and Maplewood through SOMA was raised.
6. Discount Card
   Cathy reported that through her efforts, many new businesses in Maplewood have been added to the Discount Card List.
7. Transportation
   CVS has agreed to offer their parking lot on Valley Road for South Orange Jitney Service to take the Maplewood Jitney to Maplewood Village. Rutgers runs NJTIPS and will coordinate this program and will teach seniors how to use the service.
   Sam used Go-Go Grandparent from Newark Penn Station to 9 Vose Avenue; he was pleased with the service. Go-Go Grandparent called his daughter to say that he had been picked up. The first ride is free. After that initial use, the same trip will cost $16.00. It is free to sign up for this service and a smart phone is not needed. They also keep a history of your travel. One does need a credit care, but no tipping is accepted.
   Uber might have discretionary pricing for seniors; one needs to have a smart phone and your crdit card on file with them before the first ride.

8. Walkability
   There is a new bench between Rite Aid and the Funeral Home on South Orange Avenue.
9. Pool Party
   This was a success (Lenore recruited several people on Saturday); the weather cooperated; there was good music; and everyone received 10% off their food purchases. No one went swimming.
10. SOMA Newsletter
    Cathy reported on the calendar for SOMA. There was a vote on the name: Olde News received 5 votes; Senior Times received 3; and Senior Update received 2.
    Cathy will take this to the Maplewood SAC with these three results.
    The Newsletter will roll out on October 1, 2017. Cathy will be trained on how to post to the site. The first issue will have a long article on scams directed to seniors. There will be an Introduction; a Health Page, including Health and Fitness Classes, a report on the Senior Tax Freeze, and the Homestead Rebate, as well as a Calendar of events. There will be an opportunity for responses to the questions: Have you been scammed? Have you been impacted by a scam?
11. Home Sharing Initiative
    Cathy Rowe worked with them: They are not a senior centered organization - they include students.
    There is a background screening process and a minimum of a 30 day lease. They match lessor and lessee. This a family style initiative.
    SOMA is examining this idea. South Orange and Maplewood are both enthusiastic about the idea.
    Jackie had a terrible experience with Home Sharing
    A question was raised: If any, how many Air BnB's are there in South Orange? No one knew.
12. The South Orange Historical Society is seeking docents for the upcoming house tours.
13. Repair Café
    Lorraine and Bill Graves went to Warwick/Hudson's Repair Café. They have begun preparations for the first one on October 21, 2017 between 2 and 5 pm at the Morrow Church on South Ridgewood Road in Maplewood. They expect to have registration forms, signs and refreshments. They have already signed up 6 people to volunteer to help repair. This is a good marketing strategy for local businesses.
14. SOS is hosting a cooking demonstration and a farmer's market at South Mountain Rehabilitation on Springfield Ave in Union. Lisa Olender is the contact person there. The event will take place on September 11, 2017 between 11 am and 1 pm. Admission is a favorite recipe. Lunch will be supplied by South Mountain Rehab. Jitneys will be available for anyone who wants a ride. Pick up is 10:30 am.
15. Play Day in South Orange is on Sunday, September 17. There will be rest areas for everyone and board games for all in Spiotta Park.
16. Newcomer's Day is on September 24, 2017 at the South Orange Library. We need to be present at this event.
17. Education
    Cathy met with some of the PTA leadership and will hand out a flyer on Walkability when school starts. Matters Magazine will publish it. She will also be speaking at a Board of Education meeting.
18. Karen reported on an Economist article published on July 6, 2017 that she distributed to the Board of Trustees. She also congratulated Cathy on all her work! All agreed.
19. Library
    On September 12, 2017 there is an event in Princeton to discuss how to make libraries more accessible and friendly to all.
20. The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.