South Orange Senior Citizen Advisory Committee

Proposed Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2017

Present: Jacqueline Herships, Trustee Karen Hilton, Peggy Cinberg, Scott Egelberg, Sandy Lublin, Nan Samons, Alissa Aronson, Cathy Rowe, Larry Aronson, Richard Vader, Tonia Moore, Bill Graves, Harold Colton-Max

Tonia called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m..

Trustee Karen Hilton was welcomed as the liaison to the Committee, gave some background about herself and talked about how she asked to serve as the liaison.

Next, the Committee received a report from Cathy Rowe about the SOMA: Two Towns for All Ages initiative. Key points included the following:

- They have negotiated a deal with LPi to produce the newsletter. Since the postage cost would be too high to have a newsletter every month as originally planned, it will be published every other month (the months when the Gaslight is not produced), but in a larger size of 12 pages. LPi raises money through the sale of ads in the newsletter so the newsletter will be approximately 70% content and 30% ads. It was mentioned that Larry's firm – HomeWatch Caregivers of South Orange – was the first to commit to placing an ad. LPi wil be soliciting more, including from the healthcare community. The Buzz is being discontinued but the editor will be providing content for the newsletter.
- Progress continues to be made on the website with information being added slowly. The hope was to have it done by the end of next week. Marie is working with her. The address for the site will be www.SOMAtwotownsforallages.org
- A new Senior Discount Card with the SOMA: Two Towns for All Ages logo has been designed. They are getting responses from Maplewood businesses. Certain vendors in Maplewood will also be offering discounts on the Fourth of July.
- In terms of upcoming events, there will be tent for seniors, veterans and the disabled that will be air-conditioned sponsored by SOMA at the Maplewood Independence Day event. They will also have a table at Maplewoodstock and XRoots Festival in South Orange.

(Karen left the meeting).

Richard Vader introduced himself and asked about whether this committee was evaluating senior housing. There was discussion about what is available in the Town for independent living and assisted living (of which, there is none).

Everyone else went around the table and introduced themselves.

Larry reported that he followed up with South Orange Assistant Business Administrator Adam Loehner about how to fund the Meals on Wheels program in South Orange. Adam indicated to Larry that there has been no response from Newark program (County?) he called. Larry will ask Adam to follow up again. Larry described origin of the Program (SAGE, etc.).

Scott talked to the committee about 911 Alert. While it is good in theory, South Orange EMT does not have the capability to take advantage of it yet (ipads for team members in the field, etc.). But soon Police will be able to. Scott will do a write up of what they would need to build SO EMT capacity. Then also need to raise awareness and participation.

Nan announced the following:

- South Orange Senior focus group at the library on June 29 at 1 p.m.;
- Sam Convissor will be doing another tour on Wednesday, July 12, which will include stops at the Conservancy, Hahne's building, Historical Society in Newark, Basilica (lunch at Whole Foods);
- A party at the South Orange Pool for older adults will be held on the evening of August 13, 2017;
- South Mountain Rehab on Springfield Avenue in Vaux Hall will be holding an "indoor picnic" on September 11, 2017 with Farmers Market, lunch and more. The event is open to residents of that building and senior citizens in South Orange. Price of admission is a recipe for a cookbook.

Peggy said that there would be another gala at Seton Hall this Fall.

Tonia mentioned the South Orange Health fair on September 9. There was discussion as to whether we have a table and/or demonstrations of Healthy Bones, Matter of Balance, etc.. Tonia said that she would check Township Health Officer John Festa who is spearheading the event.

Harold invited everyone to a concert that the Jewish Community Housing Corporation was sponsoring featuring the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra on Wednesday, June 28 in Whippany. He offered to send out a flyer after the meeting.

Peggy brought up the Friends of the SOPL book sale this weekend.

Jackie mentioned her involvement with SeniorShare – NNORC (Neighborhood NORC) meeting coming up this weekend. Their next speaker will be Noemi who will talk about cooperative housing (Noemi had previously addressed this Committee).

Bill explained the Repair Café. The concept started in Holland and is now In existence in 7-8 towns in the Hudson Valley. People bring "loved items" to a central location once every 6 weeks to two months and volunteers will make repairs. Cathy and his wife Lorraine are looking to get that started up in the fall.

There was discussion about possible names for the SOMA newsletter. Some ideas were:

- SOMA Seniors Speak
- Olde News
- Senior Chronicle
- Herald (not Harold) Seniors

Peggy asked whether we would do another Senior Forum in South Orange. It was agreed that this should be discussed with Cathy to coordinate with SOMA. We should be doing a better job collecting information from surveys.

Tonia reminded everyone that the next meeting of the South Orange Senior Citizen Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the PNC Building (the same location).

Larry made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Scott. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold Colton-Max for Larry Aronson, Secretary (who arrived too late to take the minutes…)