

Haverford Township Senior Citizens Advisory Council Meeting

May 22, 2017

Members Present: Joanne Gattone, Jack Dougherty, Peggy Kirlin, John Groch, Steve Cohen, Ann D'Antonio, Rose Marie Downs, Annetta Martini, Bob Lewis, Commissioner Kevin McCloskey

1. Steve Cohen reported on progress on the Senior Information Workshop scheduled on September 19 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm at the CREC Center. He suggested that Tony Black address the group on Medicare plans, but later agreed to contact the non-profit advocacy group Apprise to check for speaker availability. Additional topics will be identity theft protection and Surrey Services. Light refreshments will be served. Vendors will be invited to rent stalls to generate income to cover costs of the event. Audiovisual equipment will be provided for speakers who request them. Steve will introduce each of the speakers.
2. Advertising for the workshop will include posters, provided by the township (thanks to Commissioner McCloskey), will be posted in area places of business, the Quadrangle, Dunwoody, and information will also be placed in church bulletins and the Haverford township newsletter and website. Commissioner McCloskey will provide contact information for area neighborhood civic associations.
4. Ann D'Antonio (???) reported on her visit to Rep. Greg Vitali's office in search of information on senior services provided by his office. She was greeted warmly by his knowledgeable staff and received a variety of pamphlets outlining services to seniors, including low-income utility, property tax and trash collection subsidies and notary services.
5. Peggy Kirlin (???) reported on her visit to Rep. James Santora's office where she learned of his sponsorship of a senior expo at Drexelbrook.
6. Bob informed the council that editors of the Haverford Township Newsletter have welcomed articles about the council's activities.
7. Commissioner Kevin McCloskey was updated on the council's proposal for free parking for seniors, which would be subsidized as needed by the business community, who would also provide parking placards for seniors.
8. The next meeting will be on August 15 at 7:00 pm.

Haverford Township Senior Citizens Advisory Council Meeting

April 18, 2017

Members Present: Joanne Gattone, Jack Dougherty, Peggy Kirlin, John Groch, Steve Cohen, Ann D'Antonio, Rose Marie Downs, Annetta Martini, Bob Lewis

1. The meeting began with a discussion of proposed information sessions for seniors on a variety of topics, such as Medicare and municipal services for seniors. Tony Black, an insurance agent, was named as a potential speaker.
2. Ann D'Antonio and (?) volunteered to contact state representative Greg Vitali and (?) James Santora, respectively, to inquire about information sessions for seniors.
3. The CREC Center was named as a potential site for these meetings. Andy Lewis will be contacted about the Center's availability.
4. Bob Lewis will contact Bill Wechsler to set up an email list of seniors to facilitate communication with them.
5. The meeting continued with an extremely informative presentation by Lena McWilliams from the main office (Devon) of Surrey Services for Seniors, an organization subsidized by the county. Services and information included the following:
 - a. Seniors with monthly incomes of \$1,500 or less are eligible for services and pay a \$35 annual membership fee.
 - b. Services include meals (subsidized by the County Office for Senior Aging and Meals on Wheels), minor home repairs, transportation (fee on sliding scale based on income).
 - c. Computer skills training and use of a computer are available.
 - d. Recreational activities include pool and ping pong tables.
 - e. Volunteer opportunities are available for a variety of programs.
 - f. Surrey produces a newsletter to members. Council members considered advertising opportunities to inform more seniors about Surrey services, e.g., additional space in Haverford township publications, posters, and space in the planned Council website (to be developed with the assistance of Brendan Goggin).
 - g. Lena raised the issue of seniors' reluctance to take advantage of services. The Council expressed an interest in counteracting this tendency by promoting Surrey and other services more prominently. Lena was thanked for her informative presentation.

6. Additional discussion/action items included:

- a. Free parking for seniors (free parking placard could be provided by township).
- b. Township-sponsored social events for seniors, such as a Thanksgiving dinner or other holiday parties, would help to address the isolation of many seniors.
- c. Steve Cohen will contact Tony Black (Medicare) and Andy Lewis (CREC) for their assistance. Joanne Gattone will research additional COSA services. Bob Lewis will look further into a senior email list and Council website.
- d. Legal consultation is needed before engaging with high school students for computer skills training or tutoring services.

7. The next meeting will be on May 22 at 7:00 pm in the regular meeting room.

Submitting by John Groch

Haverford Township Senior Advisory Council Meeting

March 21, 2017

Members present: Jack Dougherty, Peggy Kirlin, John Groch, Ann D'Antonio, Rose Marie Downs, Bob Lewis

1. Bob Lewis began the meeting by asking members to introduce themselves and then provided information and discussion topic sheets. Notable items in the sheets included key contact persons in the township and community organizations that can serve as resources for seniors.

2. Discussion focused on the following topics:

- a. Free meter parking for seniors to encourage their frequenting of area businesses and restaurants.
- b. Collaboration between Haverford High School students and seniors for mutual benefit:
 - a. Tutoring, mentoring of students by seniors
 - b. Computer literacy taught to seniors by students (email, basic internet access)
 - c. Chores, caretaker relief by students
- c. Development of list of businesses that offer benefits to seniors as part of a comprehensive effort to promote a mutually beneficial relationship between businesses and seniors
- d. Creation of website for seniors (incorporate into township website) to provide one central source of information about resources for seniors. Potential resources could include the following:
 - a. Medicare seminar – updates on program features; assistance with options; low-cost immunization benefits through local providers
 - b. Home security and identity theft seminar – tips for discouraging burglary and avoiding credit card and other financial scams
 - c. Senior benefits: Meals on Wheels; transportation services and discounts (SEPTA, Amtrak); utility discounts, rebates; real estate tax rebates; veterans' benefits
 - d. Library services for seniors
 - e. Protection from phone solicitation calls
- e. Placement of the above information in township publications.

Submitted by John Groch

Senior Advisory Council Meeting

August 15, 2017

In attendance: Bob Lewis, Jack Dougherty, Annetta Martini, Ann D'Antonio, Rosemary Downs, Steve Cohen, John Groch

1. Guest speaker, Kate Nerrigan, representing Dose of Daily Care LLC, spoke about the problem of non-compliance by seniors regarding taking prescribed medications. Not only does irregular medication potentially harm the patient, it also ends up raising the costs of health care overall. Her company makes medication reminder phone calls 365 days a year to participating clients. Kate requested a recommendation from our Council to the PACE program to gain a partnership relationship as a source of funding. Her fee is \$30 per month. Kate's outreach to Surrey Services, Visiting Angels and other organizations did not meet with success, largely because these groups claimed they made their own reminders to clients. Kate claims that her services are more effective and reliable than others' services. Council members suggested that Kate leave materials at the Senior Workshop in September. Bob will check with township representatives to determine whether an endorsement by the Council is appropriate. Steve will check with CREC representatives to determine their position on such endorsements.

2. Bob informed members of Commissioner Jamie Santoro's Senior Expo on September 12 from 9:00 to Noon. Council members were invited to attend the event. Four members will attend.

3. Next the Council discussed progress on its senior workshop. Steve reported on refreshments and will investigate funding. Others suggested additional food providers for support of the event. Members discussed potential locations for distribution of flyers, which will be corrected to note that the workshop is admission free. Five respondents had contacted John Groch about attendance. John will produce name tags to facilitate registration on the day of the event. Greg Vitali has offered to email his constituents about the workshop. To be determined are members who will greet attendees and who will be distributing name tags at the admission table.

4. Members agreed that, while guest speakers offering services for seniors are welcome to address the Council, future speakers will receive an introduction from the Council member who was approached by the speaker.

Submitted by John Groch.

Senior Advisory Council Meeting

October 17, 2017

In attendance: Bob Lewis, Jack Dougherty, Annetta Martini, Ann D'Antonio, Rosemary Downs, John Groch

1. The committee reviewed feedback from participants at the Senior Workshop held on September 19. No one claimed our flyers had informed them of the workshop, so these will not be produced for future events. Positive remarks about the content and presenters were gratifying. Desirable topics for future workshops included financial planning and security, Surrey Services, Medicare, volunteer opportunities for seniors, fitness options, electronic fraud and cyber security and landscaper and household repair services.
2. Surrey Services can provide help with a number of the topics listed above. Since Surrey will receive advertising in the township newsletter, Bob Madonna, CEO, is willing to cooperate with us on future workshops.
3. The committee will consider table seating next time instead of row seating, based on participant feedback.
4. Apprise representatives will be invited to future workshops to address a number of suggested topics.
5. St. Denis Seniors will be included in future workshop advertising. Additional forms of promotion are listed in the feedback report that had been distributed to committee members.
6. The committee is grateful for the financial support of Commissioners Andy Lewis and Jimmy McGarrity and for the attendance of Steve D'Emilio, Kevin McCloskey, and Andy Lewis, and for the generous cooperation of CREC staff.
7. The committee considered recommendations for future workshop as listed in the report. For example, food amount will be reduced in future workshops.
8. Members considered inviting a member-at-large to compensate for lack of representation from certain wards.
9. Free parking for seniors in the township will be considered at the next meeting on November 21.

Submitted by John Groch.