

STOW SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Minutes of the Stow Senior Citizens Commission Meeting held Tuesday, February 15, 2022 in the Boards and Commissions Room at Stow City Hall.

Members Present: Deborah Luchka, Robbie Robinson, Manorma Ramcharran

Members Absent: Mary Ellen Cunningham, Roger Bollins, Tammy Denton

Others Present: John Pribonic, Mayor; Kathy Lewis, Recreation Supervisor; Amanda Rome, Library Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Luchka called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

SWEARING IN OF REAPPOINTED MEMBERS

Mayor Pribonic sworn in Ms. Luchka, Mr. Robinson and Ms. Ramcharran as reappointed members to the Senior Citizen's Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Ramcharran moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Ms. Luchka. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nothing to report.

CARDS AND PICTURES PROGRAM

Ms. Ramcharran stated I delivered cards and letters to four nursing facilities, The Arbors, Seasons, Altercare and The Landing. We need to call these facilities to confirm the number of residents before arriving because the number changes frequently. The facilities were very happy to receive the cards. Ms. Luchka stated that the schools sent letters to the nursing homes for Valentine's Day. Apparently, this is something that is always done for the nursing homes. Woodland did a large amount of Valentine's cards and said that we could pass them out to the nursing homes for them. I have many general cards from Woodland that I will give to Ms. Ramcharran to distribute. Ms. Lewis stated I have purchased more cards for this program and you are welcome to pick them up in my office.

Ms. Ramcharran asked when we anticipate distributing the next group of cards. Ms. Luchka replied not for another month or so. We are planning to only distribute these cards twice a year. Lakeview and Echo Hills are very excited about doing cards after Valentine's Day and I am sure Woodland will do more for us also. The Redemption church on Rt. 59 is willing to have their bible study and their community group write cards. Ms. Lewis stated I have a community member that is interested in doing cards and I am going to give her a box to get started. Once she has completed the cards, I will forward them to you, Ms. Ramcharran, for distribution.

Ms. Ramcharran stated any pictures that we receive from the elementary schools, I am distributing to the memory care facilities because I am not sure how well those residents could read actual cards and maybe they could display them in their rooms. Ms. Luchka stated that she is planning to talk about the cards program at the next Sunshiners meeting

CARE AND SHARE PROJECT

Ms. Lewis asked when we are planning to make our first delivery of items. Ms. Luchka stated whenever you can get the items in we are ready. We need about 500 pieces of each item. We are limiting it to assisted living, memory care and nursing homes. At this time, we are not going to the independent homes. The nursing homes do not want containers of the items – they would like separate bags that they can hang on the resident's doors. We will need plain bags that we can put a label on stating this bag is from the Senior Citizen's Commission. Mayor Pribonic stated that we have a group from the High School with mild handicaps that comes in every Tuesday and performs various jobs for us. We could have them assemble these bags for the commission.

Mayor Pribonic stated to make sure that we widely publicize this program because it is very important that people know what this commission is doing for these residents. Ms. Luchka asked if we could put something in the Stow Sentry again and put a box back in the atrium. I would like to put this information on some social media platforms and ask people that maybe do not see the Stow Sentry to donate specific items.

Mayor Pribonic stated that we need to speak with Mr. Nick Wren and ask him about getting a professional looking box to put donations like these in.

PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES REPORT

Ms. Lewis reported we have the Enchanted Afternoon program, which is our Princess event, this Saturday. Our Stow Community Easter Egg Hunt is a registered event that will be held on April 9 at Silver Springs Park. Superhero Training will be on April 23. This event is similar to the Enchanted Afternoon but is geared more for boys but open for both boys and girls. Our Fishing Derby will be held on May 7 at Heritage Lake. Team Up 2 Clean Up and Adopt A Spot will be on May 21. This year for the summer, we are offering Concerts on the Green, which will be here on the SKIP Playground property. We are going to offer five different concerts throughout the summer in the evenings on weeknights from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. Our first one will be over Memorial Day weekend and then in June, July and August. This event will include the band, food trucks and yard games.

The Senior Newsletter was sent in the mail to the seniors last week. Our St. Patrick's drive thru is on March 9. Next week we are doing our Brown Bag auction. For this event, we have around 20-25 different bags where the seniors do not know what is inside of the bags. We give them hints, they get tickets, and they can put their names in the bag, if interested. We have about 40 seniors signed up for this event. We are doing an information session with the library. So many seniors do not realize how helpful the library can be. We are hoping to get more of our seniors to the library so they can see the programs that are here for them. We are having a Travel Trip preview program through LifeCenter Plus and will be offering a Cinco de Mayo party on May 6.

This year we are happy to bring back the Spring Clean Up program, which is in partnership with Stow Student Council, and we will be able to service close to 50 seniors. We are bringing back Zoom Bingo again because we have realized that some seniors are still a little hesitant to get out – just being able to see people on Zoom is nice for these seniors. We are going to be offering the Movie Matinee on a quarterly basis, with the next matinee scheduled for April 25. We are also offering a partnership with T-Flex, which is in the Fishcreek plaza. We no longer have a Silver Sneakers instructor with the senior center because she relocated but we are still offering this program virtually. This is an option for seniors that may not have Silver Sneakers but are looking for senior focused fitness. They can book through T-Flex and we are an avenue for the seniors to find T-Flex. The hiking spree is coming up in May and June and is in coordination with Summit Metro Parks and their Spree for All. We are going to offer Mah Jongg lessons again and bus trips. Our bus trips are the McKinley Museum in Canton, the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, the Rock N Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, and to Chagrin Falls to view a glass blowing demonstration and do a tasting at the Olive Scene.

Ms. Luchka asked would there be more than one Bunco. Ms. Lewis stated Bunco will be offered every other month with our next one being March 25. If we see that the wait list continues to grow, we may change the frequency.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Amanda Rome from the Stow-Munroe Falls Public library stated that she was here today in place of Sarah Filiberto, who is the adult outreach librarian. I am the children's outreach librarian and Sarah and I work closely on projects together, with general outreach to the community. Our Director, Gail Koritansky, is very interested in the library being a part of as many things as we can in the community. I will be reporting to Sarah my notes from the meeting. I know that she is very interested in doing more things with the city. We just want to make sure that the services that the city is providing and the services that the library is providing is getting out to the public.

We were discussing putting a small "vending machine" in the senior center for seniors to check out materials. There are some grant opportunities and Ms. Filiberto and I started looking at some options. The seniors would be able to use their library card in order to check items out there at

the senior center. We would like your feedback on something like this. Do you think this is something the seniors would use or would people rather go to the library?

On January 1, the library went fine free. Any fines that you have from the past have been erased. Every material should be fine free. The only reason you would be charged for something is if it was damaged or if you lost the item. Many seniors are on limited income and we did not want people to have these fines and keep them from using our library.

Ms. Lewis stated that this is not the only commission that we have a library liaison. The reasoning for this is because the library has a newer director, coupled with our Mayor, with the true focus on how to get the information to the public and how we can collaborate to create new events and programs and spread the word. With them serving on our boards, they can take the information gathered at these meetings and share it with the individuals at the library. Due to this partnership, you will start seeing more dual programs being marketed that is not just for Stow Parks and Recreation or just for the library but is it actually going to have both entities on the program. Ms. Rome stated that I met yesterday with several people in the Parks and Recreation department and we planned five programs for the summer that we will be collaborating on. Mr. Robinson stated that the library has also done some collaboration with the Stow Sunshiners. Ms. Luchka asked if the library would have an area where we could put blank cards for people to fill out for the residents in the nursing homes. Ms. Rome stated she would ask Ms. Filiberto and the Director if this was something they could do.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Ms. Luchka asked if we had a new member to fill our vacancy. Ms. Lewis stated that her name is Audrey Kraynak and she worked formerly at Kent State. We did receive many excellent applications and it was a collective effort to find someone who was a good match. Mayor Pribonic stated that she would go before Council next Thursday for approval.

Ms. Luchka asked is there a limit of how many meetings you can miss in a year. Mayor Pribonic stated no but we can always address the issue and ask the individual if they are still interested in being a member.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Ramcharran and seconded by Ms. Luchka at 4:35 p.m. All were in favor.

Deborah Luchka, Chairperson
Stow Senior Commission

Deanna Mihalus, Secretary
Parks and Recreation Department