

Metuchen Senior Commission Minutes

June 14, 2023

Present: Rick Perrine, Wendi Richards, Dorothy Rasmussen, Sharon Muenster, Jay Shroff, Beverley Wilson, Tom Hansen, Trena Whitaker.

Absent: Nancy Jones, Dominick Pugliese, Anita Pugliese, Mike Sudol.

Guests: Alice Lemire and Sonja Krause

The regular meeting of the Metuchen Senior Center took place at 15 Center St., Metuchen, NJ 08840 and was called to order at 4:10 pm by Rick Perrine.

Old Business:

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

The agenda for the meeting was distributed.

Monthly senior birthday lunches have been very successful.

The themes have been

March – St. Patrick's Day. Corned beef and cabbage was served.

April - Spring has Sprung. Subs were ordered from LaRosa.

May – Cinco De Mayo – Maria's Brunch catered. June – Country Hoedown. Wendi, Beverley and Trena cooked pulled pork and salads. Shop Rite catered fried chicken. Ladies from Rise Up chorus provided singing entertainment

New Business:

As Sharon Muenster did not want to continue as a chairperson of the newly formed Senior Commission Jay Shroff volunteered and was elected Chairperson.

Jay Shroff also nominated Beverley Wilson to fill the position of Secretary and she was elected secretary.

Alice mentioned that she is interested in helping the Senior Center finish the second floor of the building to mitigate the current overcrowding. She was a grant writer and her husband was into historic restoration/construction and they both can help.

She was advised to go to a council meeting.

Alice will contact Sondra Flite from the Friends of the Metuchen Library to find out how they raise money.

Jay asked a question about coverage of the instructor's payment for various classes. Rick mentioned that the money is in the budget for all the exercise instructors at the senior center. Jay also requested Rick to provide details about Metuchen residents and outsiders for the revenue generated from the out of towners membership. In response, Rick sent an email to Jay with following details:

- 1) Total members attending the center – 258
- 2) Metuchen residents – 192
- 3) Non-residents paying \$60/per year (generating revenue of \$3960)

Against this revenue, annual estimated coffee expenses is \$1000/- The town should cover the capital expense of \$1390/- for burners, coffee maker etc.

Even though the commission does not know the total salaries expense for all classes, Jay suggested that ideally the membership money should cover some of the expenses and the MSI donations should only be used for special projects not covered by town. No MSI funds should be used for any donation to other 501c3 organization.

For Art class, the attendees bring their own supplies and hence no expense is incurred. Ceramics class barely breaks even for the pottery(greenware) and glaze expenses. We suggest the pottery should be marked up to cover other expenses for this class. At this point, we also suggested that town should pay for some basic paints and glaze. Rick agreed to work on this provided Trena and Jay can give him exact info. on what is needed. A purchase order will be needed for the paints. Trena agreed to go through all the existing paints and throw away the old, unusable paint.

In future, our budget should be further itemized for all the different programs at the center in order to get a better understanding of expenses to allow fund raising. Rick will comply with this request.

Beverley suggested we be in one or both Metuchen parades, Memorial Day or the Winter parade, either walking or on the bus.

It was suggested we rotate Karaoke and speakers at our luncheons to keep people more interested.

Wendy updated our contact list.

We will also have a sign in sheet at our meetings.

Next Meeting is September 13th, Wednesday from 4-6 PM.

Beverley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:20. Tom seconded the motion.

Cc: dzupan@metuchen.com

Deb Zupan, Boro Clerk