

Senior Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2024

Attendance: Vivian Cottrell, Geri Fudge, Massa Davis, Catherine Bragg, Diane Harris, Councilman Alex Kharazi, Beau Byrtus, Marianne Regan.

The meeting was called to order by Vivian Cottrell at 10:01 AM. There was a motion to accept the minutes of the Sept. 19, 2023 minutes which was accepted by Massa Davis and 2nd by Diane Harris. Upon opening the meeting there was a discussion regarding the representatives of each club and any reorganization. The representatives for 2024 will be as follows.

Chair - Vivian Cottrell

Vice Chair – Geraldine Fudge

Secretary - Catherine Bragg

Franklin Township Senior Club Representatives- Geraldine Fudge & Vivian Cottrell

Franklin Park Senior Club Representatives - Kathy Collins & Catherine Bragg

Parkside Senior Club Representatives - Diane Harris and Massa Davis

Vivian Cottrell, Chair appointed Geraldine Fudge to serve as Vice Chair in 2024.

New Council Liaison was introduced, Alex Kharazi. Councilman Kharazi explained that he has lived in the town for 37 years and is very active on many boards and committees and is excited to be elected and looks forward to working with this committee. He asked this group to identify 2-3 goals that will have an impact on the entire senior community. He can be reached at 732-873-2500 X6329 or by email at councilman.kharazi@franklinnj.gov.

Parks and Recreation:

Marianne discussed the past issue of center security and provided an update. She visited six senior centers in the area to see what seniors/visitors need to do upon entering the building. All had unlocked front doors and visitors are greeted by administrative staff person in the office. Our front office staff will continue to greet people as they enter the building. Attendance will continue to be taken at each club meeting and all recreation programs. Handicap door in Room 3 will be unlocked before the club meeting and locked 15 minutes after the meeting starts.

Functional Fitness, Pilates, and Yoga classes are returning in February.

Looking for talent ages 55+ to audition for our Talent Show in April. Call Marianne for an audition date and time. Auditions are on February 16th and March 1st. The show is on Friday, April 5th at 5:00 PM. Councilman Kharazi, Council Liaison was asked to be one of the judges for this fun community event.

Old Business:

No update available on Grosso's Grove. Beau did request that the Senior Advisory be able to offer suggestions before the project starts. Diane asked if the front of the Senior Center could be better maintained. Beau discussed cleaning company has been doing a good job with daily cleaning, but general maintenance continues to be an issue. Ceiling tiles still have stains, and the loft space does not have insulation. One capital project is to spray foam to insulate the ceiling and replace the boilers. Seniors asked for their own dedicated maintenance staff to help with room set up and breakdown and various projects. Beau explained the role of Public Works and that staff at times needs to break down and set up the tables for programs-- when Public Works is reassigned to an emergency.

New Business:

The request was made to have the police vehicles moved to the back of the lot and remove the large trailer. Seniors need to park close to the building. Beau will follow up. Vivian asked the club presidents to submit the payment to the United Seniors (\$.50 for each registered member). Vivian has 4 Big Club Bingo events scheduled for 2024. Diane recommended as a goal for the senior community is more transportation options for senior residents. Many would like to go to the evening council meetings or shows in New Brunswick but do not want to drive at night. Buses for trips are very expensive. Somerset County currently provides transportation to the senior center, food shopping, and medical appointments within a certain radius. Catherine is looking forward to another party to bring the clubs and new senior members together. Councilman Kharazi welcomed seniors to attend the Stigma Free Council which meets on 2/21 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 22, 2024

Meeting Closed: 11:26 AM

Minutes by: Marianne Regan