

**TOWN OF AMHERST SENIOR SERVICES
MINUTES OF ADVISORY BOARD ZOOM MEETING
Wednesday, June 8, 2022**

PRESENT: Kate Wagner, Chairperson, Senior Services Advisory Board; Asst. Chief Michael Camilleri; Beverly Fish; Rhonda Frederick; Dal Giuliani; Brian MacDonald; Jordana Maisel; Del Szczesniak; Melissa Abel, Director, Amherst Center for Senior Services; Honorable Deborah Bruch Bucki, Councilmember/Liaison to Senior Services Dept; Mary-Diana Pouli, Executive Director, Amherst Youth & Recreation Department; Tammy Jacobs, Program Coordinator, Amherst Center for Senior Services

EXCUSED: Aaron Carlson; Bob Durante; Hon. Geoffrey Klein; Jay Smith; Debbie Waldrop

CALL TO ORDER & APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Chairman Wagner called the meeting to order at 8:30am. Motion to approve the April 13, 2022 minutes made by Beverly Fish, seconded by Michael Camilleri.

Status on Gift Shop: Mary Diana discussed concerns with operating the gift shop. The hours are currently limited due to staff responsibilities & we are looking for more volunteer recruitment. Melissa said that volunteers have been lost due to various reasons. Volunteers need training & supervision and there have been issues with the cash register that require staff assistance. If a volunteer can't make their shift, staff is needed to cover that shift. A survey was designed to get members and Board opinions & a report will be generated showing the results. Debbie would like to see the survey before it goes public.

The following ideas were suggested:

- Sell more male merchandise.
- Make adjustments to survey to include "Buffalo" merchandise in addition to "Bills" merchandise. List items on the survey in A-Z order. Under the heading "Are you interested in volunteering?" leave a space for contact information. Change "Kids items" to "Grandchild items"
- Include holiday merchandise and handmade items like gift cards. Perhaps Fran Peterson could be contacted.

Report from Amherst Senior Services Director, Melissa Abel: Melissa thanked everyone for their input on the Gift Shop survey. Nutrition numbers & frozen meal distribution is steadily increasing each week. There were over 6,000 meals delivered in Amherst Meals on Wheels during the month of May. Personal care items were collected & donated to the WNY Resource Center for the people affected by the Jefferson Tops shooting. The Social Caseworker position was finally filled. One of our Senior Outreach Caseworkers will be out for 4-6 weeks for surgery. A new policy is being created for building security & events. We are partnering with The Chapel for community volunteer initiatives, starting with a school supplies collection in July.

Updates from the Foundation, Dal Giuliani: The Gift Shop survey is a good idea. It is important to be responsive to the needs of the membership & we look forward to the feedback.

Report from Mary-Diana Pouli: We're happy to report we have new staff starting. A Social Case Worker has been hired & a fulltime clerical person will be starting soon. A recreation leader will move from the Youth & Recreation department on September 1st and we are looking to fill another vacant Recreational Leader position.

Updates from Debbie Bucki:

The Live Well Erie Program in May was very informative. The Juneteenth celebration & lunch will take place at the Senior Center on June 17th. The event will be held in collaboration with the Amherst Diversity Commission & the Youth & Recreation Department.

Report from Tammy Jacobs:

- A Father's Day Car Show is planned for June 16th.
- The Juneteenth celebration will be held on June 17th. Activities include a special lunch of fried chicken & waffles & guest speakers.
- June 21st is the longest day of the year. Programs will be offered every hour from 9am - 8pm. The day will end with a concert from "Pirate Dreams".
- We are heading back out to the parks on Tuesdays & Fridays this summer. Classes & activities start June 28th.
- Horseshoes can be played at the North Forest Park & Pool on July 13th.
- University Express is again offering a great variety of free educational classes.
- The Center will hold an art exhibit in July. Original, creative art from around the globe will be on display in the Art Gallery.
- There will be Grandparent programs held this summer.

Member Updates:

- Michael will make contacts for an "Active Shooter" training.
- Rhonda said they have a building near the Tops on Jefferson Avenue. She thanked the Center for their donations.
- Jordana said new research studies will begin concerning transportation. She will reach out to the Senior Center for volunteers.

Adjourn: 9:25 a.m. - Motion to adjourn by Beverly Fish, seconded by Michael Camilleri.

***The next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.
370 John James Audubon Parkway, via Zoom or in person***

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Abel