

**TOWN OF AMHERST SENIOR SERVICES
MINUTES OF ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 8, 2023**

PRESENT: James Bardot, Chairperson, Senior Services Advisory Board; Asst. Chief Michael Camilleri; Hon. Geoffrey Klein; 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

EXCUSED: Aaron Carlson; Rhonda Frederick; Dal Giuliani; Jordana Maisel; Jay Smith

CALL TO ORDER & APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jim Bardot was introduced as the new Advisory Board chairperson & gave a report on his experience and work history. A motion was made by Del Szczesniak to approve the September minutes, seconded by Judge Klein.

A request was made for an update on our response to the blizzard. It was suggested we let our membership know everything we did in response to the storm.

Report from Amherst Senior Services Director, Melissa Abel: Center programming and classes are going well. The cook that started on October 31st has resigned. We have hired a new staff person who is expected to start March 7th. We presently have 2 part-time positions open - a clerical & a recreation attendant. There is also an opening for a full-time recreation leader. Upcoming projects include: new concrete for the front entrance & sidewalk, expansion of the kitchen, new rugs, relocation of the café & gift shop and setting up a wellness center in the former adult day space. Tuesday & Thursday evenings are going well. The Social Work staff will now be working on Tuesday nights. They will be available for appointments, planning support groups & assisting with programs. We continue to see an increased need for food assistance. Our pantry is available for short-term assistance, we have the congregate lunch program & the frozen meal program and the Social Work/Outreach Departments can provide assistance with applying for SNAP. We are starting a Parkinson's Support Group once a month & will offer health programming for those with Parkinson's.

Report from Mary-Diana Pouli: We are finalizing the streamlining of finances. Modifications have begun on the Northwest Amherst Community Center.

Updates from Debbie Bucki:

Thanks were given to the staff for the Senior Center's 60th Anniversary celebration. The Diversity Commission will collaborate on a Juneteenth celebration.

Member Updates:

- Del: Things are going well.
- Michael: It is the 100th Anniversary of the Amherst Police Department. Events are being held throughout the year. Skate with a cop will be held at the Northtown Center on February 18th.

Adjourn: 9:00 a.m. - Motion to adjourn by Michael Camilleri, seconded by Del Szczesniak.

***The next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.
370 John James Audubon Parkway***

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Abel