

**TOWN OF AMHERST SENIOR SERVICES
MINUTES OF ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, June 14, 2023**

PRESENT: James Bardot, Chairperson, Senior Services Advisory Board; Asst. Chief Michael Camilleri; Rev. Susan Frawley; Rhonda Frederick; Dal Giuliani; Del Szczesniak; Julie Whitbeck-Lewinski; Melissa Abel, Director, Amherst Center for Senior Services; Honorable Deborah Bruch Bucki, Councilmember/Liaison to Senior Services Department; Tammy Jacobs, Program Coordinator

EXCUSED: Aaron Carlson, Mary-Diana Pouli

Report from Chairperson Jim Bardot: Jordana Maisel and Jay Smith will both be leaving the Board.

Member Reports:

Rhonda Frederick: Rhonda is working for West Herr Community Giving & Support.

Dal Giuliani: Amherst Generations Foundation is rebuilding their Board & looking for new members.

Aaron Carlson (report submitted via email): Hearts & Hands provides volunteer transportation to older adults throughout Erie & Niagara counties. They also assist with in-home support, such as minor home repairs, yardwork & laundry. In 2022, in the Amherst area, they served 165 active clients with 139 active volunteers. The current wait list is 92 individuals with a wait time of 12-14 months.

Unfinished Business:

- Motion for approval of the February meeting minutes was made by Jim Bardot and 2nd by Michael Camilleri. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Approval of the April minutes was made by Jim Bardot and 2nd by Rev. Susan Frawley. The motion was unanimously approved.
- The motion to add Mary-Diana Pouli as ex-Officio was made by Jim Bardot and 2nd by Rhonda Frederick. The motion was unanimously approved.
- The motion to research Senior Center Accreditation was made by Jim Bardot and approved by Dal Giuliani. The motion was unanimously approved.

Report from Amherst Senior Services Director, Melissa Abel: The Juneteenth celebration was a huge success with 170 people attending. People have been receiving phone calls & emails supposedly from the Center - some with offensive language. They are not coming from the Center & are under investigation. If you don't recognize the number, don't answer the call. Security & safety measures are being reviewed. Unused rooms & offices will be locked when we are open in the evening or during special events. One of the entrances to the administration area is now permanently locked. Staff are reminded to have their keys on them & to carry their radio. The Center remodeling process has begun. There have been many positive comments about the bathroom updates. Some rugs will be replaced. We are asking for a budget increase to help with the rise in costs for food, supplies & other building concerns. New personnel are needed for Senior Outreach & programming. The NWACC is set to open fully in September. Pop-up classes will be offered over the summer & classes will officially start in the fall.

Report from Debbie Bucki: The Juneteenth celebration was reviewed. Debbie thanked the staff for their help and Reverend Blue for an inspiring speech.

Report from Tammy Jacobs: University Express Classes are doing very well and attendance has gone way up. The County has a new key tag program for nutrition. The Health Fair will be held on July 15th with over 50 vendors attending. We are looking forward to the upcoming summer concerts.

By-Laws: Changes to the By-Laws were proposed. A draft will be submitted to the Board members for review prior to the September meeting.

Mission statement: A staff committee will continue to meet to discuss ideas.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:40am. Motion by Dal Giuliani, 2nd by Rhonda Frederick

The next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 8:30am

370 John James Audubon Parkway