

**TOWN OF AMHERST SENIOR SERVICES
MINUTES OF ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

PRESENT: James Bardot, Chairperson, Senior Services Advisory Board; Asst.Chief Michael Camilleri; Aaron Carlson; Rev. Susan Frawley; Gary Henry; Ann Nichols; Del Szczesniak; Melissa Abel, Director, Amherst Center for Senior Services; Mary-Diana Pouli, Executive Director, Amherst Youth & Recreation Department; Tammy Jacobs, Program Coordinator

ABSENT: Dal Giuliani; Shawn Lavin, Councilmember/Liaison to Senior Services Department; Julie Whitbeck-Lewinski

Meeting opened at 8:30am. Jim made a motion to accept the December meeting minutes, second by Gary. Melissa informed the Board that Shawn Lavin is our new Town Board Liaison to Senior Services.

Report from Chairperson Jim Bardot:

- Mission Statement:
 - Suggestions from Representative Council members were discussed.
 - The Board agreed that out of the suggestions, the following best represented the Center:
To provide a supportive environment designed to enhance/maintain the quality of life as people age.
- Jim will contact Julie to go over the mission statement ideas.
- Jim clarified that Del and Ann Nichols (or delegate) serve in an Ex-Officio capacity and have the same rights and privileges as do other Advisory Board members.
- Financial Disclosure Forms still need to be submitted by Sue and Gary.

Report from Melissa Abel, Director, Amherst Senior Services:

- The Winter Class session was the largest winter registration we have had. We still have many members on wait lists.
- We are looking for new instructors. Please refer to us if you know someone.
- The grease traps & pipes have been replaced in the kitchen. A larger project will begin, date TBD. The floor will be dug up to replace a large pipe. The kitchen will be shut down to accommodate the construction.
- The no new non-resident membership policy went into effect January 1st. There have been some complaints, but we have worked through them with those who have contacted us for an explanation.
- On April 8th due to the Eclipse, there are no classes, programs, clubs, congregate dining, or Meals on Wheels scheduled.

Report from Mary-Diana Pouli, Executive Director, Youth & Recreation Department:

- There will be a new Senior Softball League.
- We have a new FT Recreation Leader position in the budget for this year (July) and are working out the budget details (with money we are saving from other areas) We hope to get the FT position sooner than July.

Report from Tammy Jacobs, Program Coordinator:

- AARP tax prep has started at NWACC. The final day for appointments is April 15th.
- Greg has been trying some new ways to get members moving - playing card fitness & Wii sports.
- Julie is presenting a program this morning.
- Chinese Square Dancers are celebrating the Lunar New Year tomorrow.

Report from Del Szczesniak, President, Representatives' Council:

- Members want to see more craft programs.
Tammy said there was one last week (a no sew blanket). Programs are being offered, it just may not be something that interests each member.
- Members are disappointed they can't get into Jen's cooking programs. They fill up fast.
Also can spots be held for non-computer users?
- Discussion included other staff that may also be able to schedule cooking programs. Staff will continue to discuss.

Reports from Board Members:

- Aaron: They have a wait list of 77 people in Amherst that are in need of transportation. Melissa suggested sending us information on looking for volunteers that could be included in future emails and social media. Aaron also is receiving a grant from the Department of Health that he is looking to partner on.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jim, second by Del.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Abel.