August 13th, 2019 Franklin Township Senior Advisory Committee

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Sheldon, Jim Rohrer, Bill Morris, Elaine Adams, Jean Thompson, Kathy Wargo, Debbie Caruso, Cindy Merckx

MEMBERS ABSENT: Thomas Nichols, Dennis Dittmar

TWP LIAISON PRESENT: Franklin Twp Mayor Dave Deegan & Franklin Twp Administrator Nancy K. Brent

GUESTS (Public Participants): Dick Brooks

On Tuesday, Aug. 13th, the official meeting of the Franklin Twp Senior Advisory Commission was called to order by Chairman Bill Morris at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Franklin Twp Community Center. A salute to the flag and roll call of members was taken. The Secretary Report/Minutes of July meeting were approved by all members and will be posted on the twp website.

In matters of OLD BUSINESS: Senior Trip suggestions were discussed. Suggestions included possible travel to Lancaster, PA to Sight & Sound Theater to see a show and meal in December. Also Maurice River Cruise. Concern of expense to seniors was raised. Possible payment plans. Need for information on pricing for transportation, restaurants and entertainment to be gathered.

NEW BUSINESS: Members suggested that a treasurer would be needed if they plan to proceed with trips that allow a payment plan. John Sheldon was nominated and accepted as Treasurer. Jean Thompson stated that she had taken several local trips on the Township Senior Bus. Hope Boyer is doing a wonderful job organizing places for senior citizens to travel to each week. Jean stated that “She makes sure the seniors are happy.” The senior bus is full most days with 23 passengers.

Concerns raised for housebound senior citizens with weeks of excessive heat and not able to afford high electric bills for air conditioning. Community Center was opened longer during daytime hours one weekend but not many came. Notification was limited to only social and cable media that not all seniors have. Discussion by members for concern for seniors with oxygen or health related issues. Mayor Deegan stated that Fire Companies are aware of some residents. Suggested that we invite FTPD officer Matt Decesari who is emergency management coordinator. Also could include Senior programs available from Inspira with nutritionist. The Mayor suggested contacting Dawn Collins (609)226-0334.

Cindy Merckx asked for update on recent Board of Health visit regarding refrigerator problems. Nancy explained that everything is fine and passed – the refrigerator temperature has to be monitored daily. Update on purchase of a steam table – Nancy said that the Township has quotes and she heard that Elk Twp schools are updating their kitchen so perhaps we can acquire their steam table.

Jean Thompson and Elaine Adams stated that they have not been volunteering in the kitchen because they were told by employees to ‘stay the hell out of the kitchen’ and was cursed and screamed at. “I only care about my seniors,” Jean stated. “The volunteers had a well oiled machine; they need to be respected,” Elaine stated. Nancy Brent said that because this is a personnel matter she would handle it and give direction to employees to include the volunteers.
**PUBLIC PORTION** – Dick Brooks complimented Jim Rohrer for keeping the Community Center ‘hospital clean.’ He then stated that he was upset that photographs were being taken of employees without their permission and that the employees checked the Township security tape and confirmed that two individuals were using their cell phones to take photographs of the son of an employee. John Sheldon explained to Dick Brooks that he was simply holding up his phone to show the woman who just got a new phone how to take a photograph with it and that it was nothing more than just holding a phone up and pressing a button. Brooks then became loud and accusatory with John Sheldon and stated that it is not permitted to take photographs without permission, etc. Bill Morris calmed the exchange of words between the men and the meeting was adjourned by 10:55 a.m.

Next Meeting is September 10th at 10 a.m. Draft Minutes submitted by Cindy Merckx, Secretary 8/22/2019