

Northville Senior Advisory Commission Meeting
Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167
March 21, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Chair Jan Purtell called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

2. Roll Call:

Commissioners:

- Jan Purtell - Chairperson (Township)
- Jan Valade - Vice Chairperson (City)
- Dorothy J. Schmidt - Secretary (Township)
- Kim Campbell-Voytal - Representative (School Board Liaison & City)
- Cynthia Jankowski - Liaison (Township); excused
- Laura Genitti - Liaison (City)
- Robert Lipmyer - Representative (Township)
- Joseph Corriveau - Representative (City)

Staff:

- Debbie Giulianelli-Smith - Senior Services Supervisor, Senior Services
- Derek O. Smith - Director, Parks and Recreation
- Greg Morris - Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation; excused
- Bridgette Renwick - Recreation Superintendent, Parks & Recreation
- Julie Wheeler - Recreation Specialist, Senior Services

Guests/Citizens:

- Nikki Hartley; Senior Citizen Alliance

3. Adoption of the Agenda:

- a. Agenda Adoption for the March 21, 2024 meeting was reviewed.
 - i. **MOTION** made by Robert Lipmyer to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion supported by Valade. No discussion. **MOTION** passed by voice vote approval

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2023 were reviewed.
 - i. **MOTION** made by Valade to approve the meeting minutes of February 15, 2024 as submitted; supported by Lipmyer. No discussion. **MOTION** was passed by voice vote approval.

5. Announcements/Citizen Comments:

- a. Chairperson Purtell welcomed Nikki Hartley as a representative of The Senior Alliance; Hartley explained that Senior Alliance is a federally funded agency serving the residents of 34 communities located in southern and western Wayne County; Senior Alliance provides aging related resources to the community for common resource requests including Medicare\Medicaid Assistance, Nutrition programs (i.e. Meals on Wheels), Housing options, Legal assistance; an *Information and Assistance Call Center* is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at (800) 815-1112 for senior resources including transportation services outside of municipal lines for doctor appointments, and other essential needs; Senior Alliance owns two *Transit Connect* vans which are

wheelchair accessible for transportation services designed to provide episodic rides outside of communities regular transit boundaries;

- b. Valade will notify Allen Terrace director/residents of the Senior Alliance support and provide contact information

6. Monthly Reports/Events:

a. Supervisor's Report: Debbie Giulianelli-Smith reported

- I. AARP Community grant proposal was submitted this month for two computer stations for public use by seniors; Computers would have Wi-Fi capability and printer availability; Wi-Fi signals would be updated as part of the grant with a \$8,600 total grant allotment with a one-year term limit; Township IT Department has developed a list of grant recommendations for computer software including printer and safety issues, etc. which were vetted including computer access for seniors on a first-come/first-serve basis limited to a one-hour time slot if others are waiting to use the equipment.
- II. *Take a Book, Leave a Book* was started in the lobby of the NCC.
- III. A new light globe fixture is going up in the NCC common area courtesy of Jim and Martha Nield
- IV. New wooden displays for information flyers and pamphlets for events and programs will be installed in the lobby
- V. A recommendation was made for an informational display area or "kiosk" for Health and Wellness information in the lobby area
- VI. Giulianelli-Smith and Wheeler are working to get the new Parks and Recreation *Sponsorship Guide* to potential sponsors asking for financial assistance for Senior Services programs in both printed format and digital format on the Parks and Recreation website
- VII. NSAC meeting room was changed from the Nield Room at the Northville Community Center to the Russell Room due to fitness classes scheduled in the Nield room

b. Transportation Report: Debbie Giulianelli-Smith reported

- i. Transportation Services Report for February was distributed, reviewed and discussed
- ii. Rides are being facilitated as much as possible with schedules frequently full; drivers are being recruited as a driver is leaving at the end of March; a recent Job Fair produced one new driver who is currently being oriented
- iii. Two large-capacity buses are currently not in use due to lack of CDL licensed drivers; smaller vehicles are more suitable for regular senior activities and a process is underway to exchange the two large-capacity buses for two smaller buses
- iv. Providing adequate transportation for seniors on medical trips is a priority, but non-medical trips are also considered to be very important; a medical appointment may sometimes take priority over a requested non-medical appointment; The Senior Alliance can also be used as an additional support for transportation in last resort circumstances

- v. Purtell asked that the Transportation Report begin tracking/reporting the unfulfilled non-medical transportation requests in order to evaluate how often requests are unfilled and the circumstances
- c. Ridership Report: Debbie-Giulianelli- Smith reported
- i. The Ridership Report through February 2024 was distributed, reviewed and discussed
 - ii. Social bus schedule runs every Wednesday for hair appointments, shopping, etc; Valade reported that requests have been made by Allen Terrace residents for the Social bus to be used for afternoon entertainment with destinations somewhere besides the malls; contractually the social bus is limited to an eight mile city/township radius; Genitti recommended the *Travel Club* may be a source via the SMART BUS for riders to be transported by a SMART bus to a larger bus for public transportation to distant events (i.e. casinos).
 - iii. Valade suggested that *The Detroit Institute of Arts* may be able to provide transportation from Northville to the DIA on a "Senior Day" free of charge;
 - iv. Smith mentioned that public transportation in Oakland County is set to increase per a recent millage which may benefit Northville as well as a small part of Northville that is located in Oakland County
 - v. Smith noted that economical and practical service reasons a transition to alternative options regarding the future use of SMART BUS is being considered; labor intensive contracts may be abandoned in lieu of Northville owning its own bus if the transition would be advantageous to providing a greater availability of transportation services for seniors; insurance liability and other cost issues will be evaluated
- d. Participation Report: Debbie Giulianelli-Smith reported
- i. Participation Report of Senior Services through February 2024 was distributed, reviewed and discussed
 - ii. Valentine's Day Party was small (27); Julie arranged for a Valentine related *Trivia Game* program which the seniors stated was enjoyable.
 - iii. AARP taxes are going strong 30-40 people every Thursday.
 - iv. *NCC Lunch Crew* had 23 participants on Feb 20, 2024. Last week after residents showed up for the *NCC Lunch Crew* event a last minute catering cancellation occurred; Genitti's was thanked for quickly providing a delicious lunch for 12 attendees and staff; Laura Genitti's stated she is glad to help out anytime there is such a need.
 - v. Friday Flicks has had good attendance with a consistent group of 8-11 people every week.
 - vi. Coffee with a Cop only had one attendee for Andy and Max the dog
 - vii. "How to Prepare Your Home for Sale" presentation was well attended
 - viii. "Luck of the Irish Party" had 69 attendees with a last minute entertainment cancellation by Tap Dance of Detroit whose members had COVID; Mayor Turnbull spoke extemporaneously about Northville history and teamwork saved the day with an audio/video production on "Irish Dance"; Debbie congratulated all the team members who were present and contributed 100% to make the event a success despite the challenges.

- ix. "50 North Travel Cub" Trip Club had a great turnout of 27 with more people are starting to register for trips
- x. *New to Medicare* had one event so far
- xi. *Michigan Seniors Move with Senior Empowerment Series* is held once a month
- xii. Northville Woman's Club hosted a meeting and luncheon for the first time at the NCC; Giulianelli-Smith and Wheeler presented information about Northville Senior Services; NWC gave a donation to NSSC for future "Lunch Crew" expenses

7. Recent/Upcoming Events and Programs:

- 3/22 Google Drive, 10:00 am, No cost
- 3/22 *Friday Flick* - The Hill 1:00 pm; \$1.00
- 3/26 *Financial Planning for Seniors* (includes lunch), 11:00 am; No cost
- 3/25 & 3/26 - AARP Driver Safety Class 10:00 am; \$25 AARP members; \$30 AARP non-members
- 3/29 - Offices closed
- 4/5 - *Tigers Opening Day Lunch & Party* , 12:30 pm; \$15
- 4/9 - *Economic Update 2024* (includes lunch) 11:00 am, No cost
- 4/9 - *Preserving Your Most Important Asset*, 1:00 pm, No Cost
- 4/9 - Northville Community Center is partnering with Northville District Library for two events during the Library renovation; next event is a presentation about John DeLorean on April 9 by Barry Levine, 7:00 pm; No cost.
- 4/12 - *Drop In Tech Help*, 10:00 am, No cost
- 4/12 - *Friday Flick* - "Love at First Sight", 1:00 pm; \$1
- 4/16 - *Blood Pressure Screening* 11:00 am; No cost
- 4/16 - *What You Need to Know about Asset Protection*, 1:30 pm; No cost
- 4/16 - *NCC Lunch Crew* - Taco Bar, 12:00 pm; \$6
- 4/16 - *Kookies and Karaoke*, 1:00 pm; No charge
- 4/17 - *The Next Chapter Book Club* (w/NDL), 11:00 am, No charge.
- 4/29 - Northville District Library (NDL) is partnering with NCC to present a seminar: "Coping with Loss and Grief in the Face of Alzheimer's and Other Dementias"; No charge

8. Old Business: Smith reported on Northville Parks and Rec

- a. Strategic Planning had been stalled and progress will now resume starting with statistical data analysis from a SWOT survey sent to all Commission members via email; survey should be completed by April 10, 2024 for Parks and Recreation staff to be able to analyze and review the data prior to the City Council and Township Board presentations in May
- b. Strategic planning will be continued for the City and the Township including growing the Senior Services Programs; since current Senior Services staff are new, statistical data will not be a full-blown program or budget assessment;
- c. Follow-up from previous NSAC meetings regarding some seniors that may be unable to afford the cost of senior events and programs resulted in staff meeting with the Director of the Portage Senior Services and gathered information about their program scholarships and funding; Portage funding includes an annual membership fee of \$30 to \$40 year/per person; staff will investigate other Senior Services that have scholarship programs and funding

- d. Northville Garden Club and the Northville Historical Society will collaborate together in a spring planting for the exterior of the Northville Community Center

9. New Business:

a. City Liaison Report - Genitti reported

Three important meetings coming up:

- *Bicentennial Committee* on March 27, 7:00 pm at City Hall
- *Cemetery Committee* on March, 28, 7:00 pm at City Hall
- *Downs Project* will be presented at City Hall on March 26 at 5:30 pm; the demolition process and how the project will be carried out per the contract will be discussed; Citizen concerns will be addressed regarding the local effects of the demolition including air quality, asbestos removal, rodent and pest control; demolition crew is currently assessing and DTE is also on the property, flyers will be posted in the NSSC

b. Township Liaison Report - Derek Smith reporting for Jankowski

- Board of Trustees meeting tonight, March 21 at 7:00 pm.
- Parks and Recreation meeting, Wednesday, March 27
- Essential Services Complex official groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for May 9 at 11:00 am; a small maintenance garage, a restroom facility with 4 bathrooms, an indoor lobby area and pavilion, and a picnic table will also be on the property; Cost \$400,000
- Senior buses will not be stored in the maintenance building

c. School Board Report - Campbell-Voytal reported

- Darby Hoppenstant from Northville Schools has been invited to attend our April 18, 2024 meeting in order to introduce herself and discuss her new role within the schools
- High school graduation is set for June 2 and the *Car Parade* is scheduled for June 1 (ROUTE: Six Mile from Ward Church to NHS between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm)
- Juried Art Exhibit will be hosted at *The Art House* today until March 26
- Northville High School Drama Club will be presenting "*Mean Girls*" on April 25, 26 and 27 with a matinee on Saturday afternoon
- Northville High School *Spring Choir Concert* is scheduled for May 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm
- Eight Mile Stadium: old bleachers have been removed and new bleachers are in the process of being installed
- The Northville school district is still looking for a sponsorship for the visible sign for the Sports field on 8 Mile which is considered. Anyone interested can contact the school district
- Turfing the baseball and football fields are in progress
- Youth Art Exhibit will take place at the Old Village School for senior viewing and will include a reception; Chosen art will be displayed in the NCC
- Northville Educational Foundation (NEF) fundraiser will be held on Saturday, April 15, in Northville Square (old MAGS building) *A Night for Northville* tickets are \$150; amenities include casino night, (chips for roulette are included as part of admission)

d. Chairperson and Commissioner Comments:

- Northville Chamber of Commerce "*State of the Community*" luncheon is scheduled for April 26 at 11:30 am-1:30 pm at the Italian American Center on Five Mile Road;

cost is \$52.50 non-members of the Chamber of Commerce or \$47.50 for members; three presentations by Superintendent of Schools, City Mayor and Township Supervisor; registration is available online at the Chamber of Commerce website

- The *Inside Out* program from the DIA will place four art pieces in Northville Parks to give visibility for Art
- New registration software is currently being researched for the Parks and Recreation Department to be presented before the Council and Township boards.
- Skate Park Grand Opening is scheduled for May 4 at noon at the Skate Park located in Millennium Park behind the Fire Station on Six Mile Road
- *Beer, Beats and Bands* will be held at the Skatepark at 1:00 pm following the groundbreaking ceremony at Millennium Park
- Legacy Park Committee is working on the Legacy Park Master Plan
- ease for the NCC building from Northville Schools is up for renewal in July
- An automated robotic computer programmed electric field painter machine is now in operation; the robot will paint the entire soccer complex at significant cost savings.
- Notice from M/PARKS that there is a new bill in the State legislature to “opt out” instead of “opt in” which, if passed, Michigan State park passes will be automatically issued when applying for a vehicle license at a cost of \$14; if adopted, it is estimated that the “*Opt Out Program*” will allow for an approximate \$50 million grant for reinvestment into the State Park system

10. Adjournment:

- a. **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made by Valade, supported by Campbell-Voytal. **MOTION** carried by voice vote approval.
- b. Meeting was adjourned at 2:26 pm.

Next regular NSAC Meeting is April 18, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Northville Community Center.

Respectfully submitted by:
Dory Schmidt, Secretary NSAC