



Town of Niskayuna

June 1, 2023

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING

Present: J. Puccioni, B. Greenwood, J. Lohre, L. O'Brien, J. Foti, L. Peretti, S. Goldstein, J. Brennan, A. Finnan

Approval of Minutes – May, 4 2023 Meeting (prepared by Julie Lohre). The minutes were approved as presented.

Community Programs Items – Lori Peretti

Town Pool Opening Date – The pool is scheduled to open as planned on Saturday, June 17th. Lori extended a huge thank you to Charlie Bergami and the pool staff for all of their hard work.

Driving Range Update – The Issues with the ball dispensing machine have been resolved. A new e-port was required, and there have been some programming issues.

Summer Program Update – Registration for Summer Programs has been going great, and we are looking forward to another great summer. There will be a drop-in outdoor Yoga class on Wednesday evenings on the Town Hall Green, with a free class on 6/21.

Summer Concert Series – The first of the 2023 Summer Gazebo Concerts will be held this evening (6/1), and will feature the **Doc Benson Band**. Next week's concert will be the **Niskayuna Middle and High School Jazz Bands**, followed by **Diva and the Dirty Boys** on 6/15, **Loose Change** on 6/22, and **elaztix** on 6/29. Concerts are sponsored in part by a \$1500.00 grant from the Schenectady County Legislature as part of the County Initiative Program.

Farmer's Market Update – The Niskayuna Farmer's Market continues to welcome new vendors. It is scheduled to open on Saturday, July 8th.

Senior Program Updates – Linda O'Brien reported that the first bus trip of the year was a great success. There were eleven people who took the bus to Proctor's Theater to see "Ain't too Proud to Beg – The Life and Times of the Temptations" on May. Everyone enjoyed the show. There will be a second Proctor's trip in the fall to see "The Lion King". On June 22nd they will be having some new entertainment. Judith Harris will be coming in to entertain the seniors, and she specializes in musical theater. Her subject matter should make her very relatable, and they are looking forward to her visit.

Linda wanted to give a big shout-out and thank you to Benson's Pet Center for their very generous donation. They presented the center with a check for over \$3200.00. This will be used to help subsidize the meal program. Benson's employees were very nice and came over to do a picture presentation of the check, and included the seniors and Vito.

The Senior Center has been increasing their membership. Eight new members have joined in the last couple weeks. The staff have been updating the member list, to help keep closer track of their member numbers. The center will be closed for the week of July 3-7. This is one of the two weeks each year that the center closes. The week between Christmas and New Year is the other week.

While not a regular program day, Mondays have become quite busy at the center. The morning starts at 10:00 with a Qi Gong class which has become very popular. Some Mondays there will be Pickle ball, and then at 12:30 there is a Chair Pilates class. Edie comes in at 5:30 for Open Art time and the Beginning Mah Jong class. The Open Art is a new addition to the schedule, providing a quiet space and time to work on projects.

The SAS Art offerings for June include Saturday, 6/10 for a Watercolor/Gouache class, and 6/15, which is a program day, offering an acrylic painting class. The center continues to offer the monthly computer classes, Book Club, Coffee with a Cop, all of which are very well received.

Linda mentioned to the committee that they do not have any numbers on either the building or their mailbox. She has mentioned this to Charlie, and it should be an easy fix. The more difficult request is to have a small sign identifying the building. She would be happy to help look into this.

Councilwoman Brennan thanked Dottie Gillen and Lori Peretti for taking on the Nisky @ Home Program and moving it forward. Lori informed the group that Dottie has created a spread sheet to help match up volunteers with people in need. Seth Goldstein mentioned that any changes made to the website going forward will need to be made to the new website as well. He also informed Linda that the Senior Center Computer Lab will be getting some up-graded computers.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 3:00 pm
Minutes prepared by Julie Lohre