

JAMIE MAGEE, CHAIRPERSON
LINDA FORTE
ANTIONETTE JOHNSON
CATHY PARKER
HELEN PASE
SCOTT PHILLIPS



LINDA ROGERS
LARRY SAVAGE
FRANCINE SHOCKLEY
FRAN SMITH
HELEN SMITH

Advisory Committee on Aging & Adults with Physical Disabilities for Sussex County

Minutes of Meeting

September 20, 2021

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging & Adults with Physical Disabilities for Sussex County was held on Monday, September 20, 2021, at the Sussex County Administrative Offices West Complex, 22215 North DuPont Boulevard, Georgetown, Delaware. The following members were present:

Linda Forte
Antionette Johnson
Jamie Magee
Cathy Parker
Helen Pase

Linda Rogers
Larry Savage
Fran Smith
Helen Smith

Call to Order

Jamie Magee, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made by Helen Smith, seconded by Larry Savage, to approve the Agenda as posted. Motion adopted by Voice Vote.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Antionette Johnson, seconded by Cathy Parker, to approve the minutes of July 19, 2021, as distributed. Motion adopted by Voice Vote.

Old Business

1. At the July 19, 2021 Meeting, Chairperson Jamie Magee gave an overview of the Committee and reviewed the Bylaws. The Committee was supposed to have three standing Committees – Nominating, Bylaws and Public Information. We have never had these standing committees in place. A Nominating Committee has been appointed before an upcoming election of officers in the past. To rectify this, Jamie Magee asked



Antionette Johnson to head the Bylaws Committee, Helen Pase to head the Nominating Committee and Linda Rogers to head the Public Information Committee. Each Committee Head will choose committee members to help them with the Committee.

2. As announced at the July 19, 2021 meeting, Scott Phillips resigned, as he has moved out of his District. If any member knows of someone who lives in District 5 (John Rieley's district) that they think would like to work on the Advisory Committee, please notify Jamie Magee.

3. Jamie Magee announced that most committee members would still like to have an annual conference. Due to COVID-19, and the busy schedule of events at Crossroad Community Church, she suggested than we plan on a May 2023 Conference. We will aim for the first week in May. Jamie Magee will call Kari Souder at Crossroad to see if we can book the room for a date that week. Linda Rogers will head the Conference, and we will present the one on Scams and Fraud that had been planned for May 2020. A Motion was made by Fran Smith to plan for a May 2023 Conference, seconded by Helen Pase. Motion adopted by Voice Vote.

4. Jamie Magee discussed the bi-monthly meetings. The public has not been coming to the majority of our meetings, except when they concern veterans. Instead of six meetings with speakers each year, maybe the committee needs to focus more on what seniors really want and need to hear about, and just have speakers at 3-4 of the meetings. Ms. Magee suggested that, due to frequent inclement weather conditions, maybe we shouldn't plan speakers for January or March. Others felt we should have a more consistent pattern, such as every other month a meeting with, then without, a speaker. A Motion was made by Linda Forte, seconded by Antionette Johnson to have speakers at three meetings per year. Motion adopted by Voice Vote.

5. Jamie Magee noted that there are already two items for the Bylaws Committee to tackle: How to set up a committee; and the issue of whether people who work for a for-profit company can be a guest speaker at one of our meetings.

6. Jamie Magee announced that she will set up a meeting with Todd Lawson, County Administrator, for herself, Antionette Johnson and Linda Rogers. They need to discuss the issue of whether or not speakers from for-profit businesses can speak at our meetings; the fact that although it is in our bylaws that a designee of the Sussex County Council shall serve as a non-voting member, none has attended any of our meetings in several years; and the fact that a designee of the Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults With Physical Disabilities shall serve as a non-voting member, and we haven't had anyone attend for a while.

7. Fran Smith talked about her experiences trying to get seniors to come to the Greenwood CHEER Center, especially now with COVID-19 fears. She said some of the hot topics now are fall prevention, scams and fire prevention. Danielle Briggs from Volunteer Delaware 50+ is an excellent presenter on fall prevention, and her husband is in law enforcement and can speak on related topics. Mike Lowe presents a very good program on fire prevention.

8. At the July 19, 2021 meeting, some members felt we should survey seniors to see what topics they'd like us to cover. One way to do this would be to ask the directors of the various CHEER centers and other senior centers in Sussex County. Fran Smith said they have a monthly meeting where all the CHEER directors and directors from some of the other senior centers attend. Jamie Magee asked Ms. Smith if she could survey the members and ask them which topics they think their members might attend our meetings to hear about.

9. At the July 19, 2021 meeting, a discussion was held about possibly changing the day the committee meets. The bylaws state that the committee shall meet every other month, but no day of the week is specified. Linda Rogers stated that Mondays are difficult for those people who work, are often holidays, or are taken off by members who go away for a long weekend. Other members commented that they liked Monday as a meeting day because nothing else seems to be happening on Mondays. A Motion was made by Helen Pase, seconded by Helen Smith, to keep the 3rd Monday of January, March, May, July, September, and November as meeting days. Motion was Adopted by Voice Vote, with one dissension.

10. At the July 19, 2021 meeting, some members asked if maybe we would get better attendance if we held meetings at locations other than just the Georgetown Administrative Offices. The room is small (it was overflowing for the veteran program we had). Carolyn O'Neal, CHEER Community Relations Director, said the Georgetown CHEER might donate a room that will hold 150 people. Also, we have met at the Milton CHEER in the past and that room holds 150 or so. The consensus was that our meetings will continue to be at the County Administrative Offices West Complex, unless we anticipate a very large crowd. Then, we will try to book one of the CHEER Centers.

11. Linda Rogers stated that we should contact all State Police barracks in Sussex County and all town police chiefs and invite them to our bi-monthly meetings, so that they can update the audience on current trends, especially with regards to seniors. Also, Ms. Rogers suggested that that each of the five Sussex County Council Members attend our meetings on a rotating basis.

12. We will continue to include our programming in the CHEER Newsletter and Volunteer Delaware 50+ newsletter.

13. It was suggested we might be able to do a webinar, if we are unable to have a conference in 2023; however, people seem to be tired of Zoom and webinars and many seniors will not use them.

New Business

There was no new business to report.

Comment

None.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, November 15, 2021, at 10:00 am at the Sussex County Administrative Offices West Complex, 22215 North DuPont Boulevard, in Georgetown.

Adjourn

**A Motion was made by Fran Smith, seconded by Larry Savage, to adjourn at 11:12 am.
Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Helen Smith
Secretary**