

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Attendance: Chair Rosemarie Picciuto, Vice Chair Audrey Van Buskirk-Hoge, Council Representative James Bullard, Camille Fernicola, Walter Hohner, Herman Jackson, Chor Lee, Mon Louie, Lois Bjornsen, Barbara Rieger, Joan Stamile, Joyce Coles and Amy Bauman (Director on Aging, Piscataway Township).

Guest: Kate Baker (Special Populations Librarian, Piscataway Library) and Mary Beth Wheeler (Office Manager, Piscataway Senior Center)

Absent: Antonio Albano

The meeting was convened at 1:05 p.m. by Chair Rosemarie Picciuto. The minutes for the meeting of January 8, 2020 were accepted by Amy Bauman for distribution to Commission members.

MARCH 2020 MEETING DATE: Our next meeting will be held on **MARCH 12, 2020** (SECOND Thursday) @ 1 PM. Please mark your calendar!

Announcements

- Amy Bauman proudly announced that Piscataway Senior Center has won the following two (2) "Excellence in Programming" NJRPA (New Jersey Recreation & Park Association) awards: Joyce Coles' "International Women's Day" won the "Special Events Programming Award" and Chor Lee's "Computer Buddy" won the "Educational & Interpretive Programming Award". Both awards will be given out on February 25 at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City during the "NJRPA Annual Awards Dinner".
- Joyce Coles informed us that the Piscataway African American Seniors Club (PAASC) is celebrating "Black History Month" every Friday during the month of February. On Feb 7, the "Youth Day" event included Piscataway's Performance Art Group, ROTC Drill Team & Young Orator. Upcoming events are "Game Day" on Feb 14, "Name that Tune" on Feb 21, and "Black History Party" on Feb 28. The Black History Party's key note speaker will be Mildred Scott (Middlesex County Sheriff). Tickets for the party was sold out early.
- Chair Rosemarie Picciuto was contacted by "NJ Motor Vehicle Mobile Unit" that they will be at the Piscataway Senior Center's parking lot on April 6 from 10 AM to 2 PM. They will be here to renew driver licenses. Rosemarie does not know if they will be able to process "Real ID" which is the enhanced driver's license needed for travel after Oct 1, 2020.
- Melissa Chalker from New Jersey Foundation for Aging (NJFA) invited Piscataway "Taekwondo for Seniors" to perform at the NJFA 2020 Conference on June 5 at the Hyatt Regency New Brunswick.



TOWNSHIP OF PISCATAWAY

- Mary Beth Wheeler stated that it is too late to submit anything for our March/April newsletter because it is already at the printer. If anyone wishing to contribute to the May/June newsletter, they must submit by end of March.

Sharing

- Flyer on the annual “Community Clean-up Day” on Saturday, April 18 was handed out. Interested volunteers must sign-up with reception and provide T-shirt size. Amy Bauman and Chor Lee will pick up the materials at 8:30 AM. Everyone will meet in the Card Room at 9 AM for instructions and assignments.
- Joyce Coles told everyone that this year’s “International Women’s Day” will focus on professional woman in these areas: legal, education, entertainment, technology and politic. Planning meeting for this event will be in March (date and time will be announced).
- Amy Bauman attended “LGBTQ Older Adults Workshop” last week. Because the older adults were raised in an environment that hide their true identity, these elders are in need of ways to express themselves because they worry about having support from family and friends as they age. Many are concern about how they will be treated if they enter long-term care facilities or other older adults’ facilities. Audrey Van Buskirk-Hoge suggested that we have a box at our Senior Center where the LGBTQ older adult anonymously ask questions or to seek help/support. Mary Beth Wheeler informed everyone that the Senior Center has a “Suggestion Box” that can be used for this. Since many advisory members do not know of this box, it was suggested that the Senior Center advertise this so that all seniors are aware of the “Suggestion Box”.
- Rosemarie Picciuto asked for status on the “Sign-In Computers”. Amy Bauman informed the Advisory members that it is being worked on by Piscataway IT.
- Rosemarie Picciuto suggested the following setup for a small party: seat everyone near each other in Room C and Room D instead of spreading everyone apart in Room C and Room A. Mary Beth Wheeler will use this setup for future party that involves 2 rooms.
- Kate Baker from Piscataway Library shared the following:
 - On Feb 15 at 11 AM, the Kennedy Library will have “African American Read In”. Join this event to hear from young speech writers as you listen to music, poetry and prose by local artists & authors in celebrating African American culture.
 - Attend the “Justice Film Screening” at Kennedy on Mar 26 at 6:30 PM to see PBS documentary “Not in Our Town: Light in the Darkness”. This film is about a town taking action after anti-immigrant violence devastated their community. After the film, Piscataway Councilman Jim Bullard will host a community discussion.
 - Kate Baker disclosed that the Piscataway Library has a designated room containing historical collections of Piscataway’s rich history. Advisory members were encouraged to visit as well as to spread the word of this little known room.
 - Relating to LGBTQ discussion, Kate Baker informed us that the Piscataway Library has information on LGBTQ support groups.

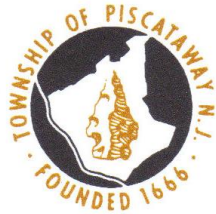


TOWNSHIP OF PISCATAWAY

- Kate Baker handed each Advisory members a copy of the “Piscataway Stories Community Survey” to complete and to return survey to the Piscataway Library.
- Jim Bullard stated that our Community Center is expected to open in May and that the YMCA is currently hiring. Fees for resident, non-resident family, and different age groups are being discussed. Official announcement will be available by the end of February. A question that Jim will investigate is “Can kids use water park without being a member?”.
- Amy Bauman shared the following:
 - When hard hat is not required, the Senior Advisory members will get a tour of the Piscataway Community Center.
 - Mary Beth Wheeler will run this year’s Memorial Day Parade.
 - National Night Out will be held at the Piscataway Community Center.
 - Health Dept. will visit the Senior Center to speak on Coronavirus and on pro-active prevention such as washing hands and keeping hands away from nose, mouth & eyes.
- Mary Beth Wheeler informed the Advisory members that paper towels are available. However, since they do not fit the current dispenser, they will be on the counter.
- Jim Bullard indicated that maintenance will clean the air vents. Audrey Van Buskirk-Hoge asked that they also check & clean the filters in the bathroom hand blowers.

Upcoming Events

- Mar 3, “OSTEO Screening”, 10 AM. St. Peters University Hospital will perform bone density screening for seniors not diagnosed for osteoporosis or osteopenia. Sign up at reception desk.
- Mar 5, “Health Fair”, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM. Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy students will perform blood pressure & blood glucose screenings. Sign up at reception desk.
- Mar 13, “Nurtured Heart Approach”, 10 AM. Mobile Family Success Center workshop to discuss methods to handle most difficult children through positive reinforcements. Sign up at reception desk.
- Mar 25, “Health & Wellness Screenings”, 9 AM – 12 noon. Hackensack Meridian Health JFK Medical Center will provide blood pressure, pulse, cholesterol, glucose, & body mass index screenings as well as providing stroke risk assessment. Sign up at reception desk.
- Mar 27, “International Women’s Day”, 10 AM – 1 PM. Elmer will cater event. Must have ticket to attend. Tickets sold out.
- Mar 30, “Adult Coloring”. Rutgers Exercise & Aging Group event. Sign up at reception desk.
- Mar 31, “SS United States”, 12:30 PM. Don Buzney from “The Veterans Corner” WRSU-88.7 FM New Brunswick station will present the flagship of the American merchant fleet from 1952-1969 and the “A-List” of movie stars & celebrities who sailed on her. Sign up at reception desk.
- Apr 7, “Colon Health”, 10 AM. Michelle Jansen MS. MAT from Rutgers Cancer Institute of NJ will talk about colorectal cancer prevention. Sign up at reception desk.
- Apr 28, “Parkinson Disease: What you need to know”. Diagnosis & treatment options presentation. Sign up at reception desk.



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TOWNSHIP OF PISCATAWAY

- May 4, “New Jersey Landscapes”, 12:30 PM. Presentation explores changing uses of landscapes through time & examines historical methods of measuring & delineating the land. Sign up at reception desk.
- May 11, “Passport Day”. US Postal Service will be here to process passport applications. Sign up with reception and pick up “Application” and “Fee Schedule”.
- Aug 3, “Passport Day”. US Postal Service will be here to process passport applications. Sign up with reception and pick up “Application” and “Fee Schedule”.
- Nov 9, “Passport Day”. US Postal Service will be here to process passport applications. Sign up with reception and pick up “Application” and “Fee Schedule”.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m. by Chair Rosemarie Picciuto. The next meeting of the Commission will be on the **second Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Piscataway Senior Center**. If you are unable to attend, please contact the Senior Center Staff at (732) 562-1133.

CC WITH NO ATTACHMENTS

Amy Bauman, Director, Office on Aging, Piscataway Township
Commission Members
JFK Library
Municipal Clerk
Mayor’s Office

Respectfully submitted,

Chor Lee
Secretary