

Commission on Aging

Monday, April 18, 2011

Present: Jeanette Perlman, Lorna Barrett, Carol Voorhees, John Jenner, Jill Finch. Beth Trott, Director. Lynne Gomez, clerk.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved as read.

The newspaper column, The Aging Advocate, was discussed. First column was on the Reach Out program of the Senior Center. The story on FISH will not be used in the column, as the FISH board determined it will conduct its own publicity. The Aging Advocate for May will be a column on the Symposium. Perhaps the Story Corp program which Louise Edwards is spearheading will be the column for June.

Other topics for potential columns: Signs of Neglect and Abuse; the Homework Club; the Fire Dept.; the Library; the Old Story; The survey Caroline is conducting; Hungerford; the Red Hats.

John and Lynne will work on guidelines and a formal schedule for monthly or bi-monthly columns.

Beth reported that the newsletter is coming out. An insert into the newsletter will be an informative sheet on Medicare.

The symposium will be held on May 21 at 10 a.m. at the Sherman School Cafeteria. The program will run from 10 to noon. Set up will be at 9 a.m. Beth asked for set-up help and the custodians will get the room arranged. Beth will get food from Costco and ask Cheryl to assist. Beth will make signs and fliers are available for posting.

Regarding the StoryCorp program, the center determined it will conduct the program privately and not participate in the expensive StoryCorp program. StoryCorp is designed to record the stories of local people who are the fabric of the community. Lorna suggested a "Story Corp Day" in which people will gather for interviews and photos. John Jenner noted that the summer camp of the Historical Society will have a similar theme this year. Students will interview a variety of people, from farmers to seniors to veterans.

A student intern has begun phone interviews with Sherman's seniors. The survey is designed to gather information on Sherman's senior population who live alone and also to disperse information on programs available. The information is strictly confidential and will only be used for statistical purposes. However, it has become a good outreach and personal contact with Sherman's seniors to make sure they have the assistance they need. Beth and John will meet after the meeting to determine the best way to synthesize the information gathered.

Beth discussed the Easter food baskets made available to certain seniors. She noted that some people want a visitor and other seek anonymity. Discussion ensued regarding Hungerford and the number of people in Sherman who are served.

Jeanette Perlman, a member of the Sherman Housing Commission, updated the Commission on Aging on new developments within the housing project.

Discussion of risk assessment in the home followed. Beth noted that physical therapy and occupational therapy evaluation is given in the home following hospitalization. Discussion of providing risk assessment in the home as a service ensued. A program which provides free used cell phones was discussed. The cell phones are not part of a service plan, but just made available to make 911 calls.

Motion to adjourn was made at 10 a.m.

Submitted,

Lynne Gomez