

Orange Community Services Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 10, 2025 – Senior Lounge

Present: Jim White, Kevin Hadlock, Pat Ziman, Peter Boppert, Stephen Hechtman, Marianne Miller, Aileen DeFeo, Arlene Consiglio

Absent/Excused: Carol Imperati, Deb Esposito

Staff: Stacey Johnson, Dennis Marsh, Jennifer Hudson

Call to Order: 6:55 pm

Review of Minutes: February – Accepted (Ziman/Boppert), March – Accepted (Hadlock/Ziman)

Review of Latest Financial Report: Reviewed and discussed reimbursables accounts.

Director's Report:

- Stacey and Chantelle continue to advocate for a vape shop moratorium.
- Pasta Festa Living Treasures picked: Robert Sigler, Patricia O'Leary Treat, and Dr. Lawrence Messina.
- Stacey met with Bridges CEO at quarterly Family Counseling meeting – discussed adding prevention due to grant received by Bridges.
- New low-income homes on Smith Farm Rd have led to an increase in clients for Denise.
- Thirteen residents have used fuel assistance this fiscal year and the food pantry is being used regularly.
- Tracy Bunch on hold until May due to coordinator surgery.

Senior Services Coordinator's Report:

- Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance started in January until June with the help of grant money.
- Classes: Fitness, Yoga and Zumba continue to be successful; Drumming for Seniors has been well attended. Fitness continues for the spring
- Movie of the Month – Conclave, A Complete Unknown
- Art Classes including "Painting for Pleasure" and "One and Done Drawing" continue.
- Partnered with Park & Rec to offer Shallow Water Exercise.
- Pasta Festa is set for May 15, 2025 at St. Barbara's Church
- AARP Tax program was very successful with 121 people served.
- Coffee with First Selectman Jim Zeoli was well attended with over 30 attendees.
- Volunteer Recognition Cabaret to be held on 4/14.

Transportation Report:

- The Center is now transporting on average, 8-9 people a day to the Senior Center to participate in activities.
- 437 rides were given in March to Orange residents.

Youth Services and Prevention Coordinator's Report:

- Youth Services Committee Chair, Marie Gull, resigned from committee.
- Teen Committee meetings are being held biweekly – 20-30 7th – 12th grade students.
- Second Babysitting Course will be held in April.
- Chantelle meeting with schools, superintendents, and other networking resources
- The scholarship committee has received over thirty applications.
- "Screenagers" documentary and discussion-based program about youth and risk management was held in partnership with Diane Downey, school social worker, and was attended by about 30 people.
- Chantelle and Stacey went to the Board of Selectman to propose a moratorium on vape shops and were able to secure a six month moratorium before being reassessed at a later date.

Old Business:

- Chantelle had drafted a letter to the Planning and Zoning Board to encourage moratorium to be more permanent, small changes were agreed on by OCS committee members and will be changed and sent to Planning and Zoning Board.
- Jim White met with Chris Kelly of OGAT and discussed updating banner to show current senior center events.

Adjournment: 8:03 pm (DeFeo/Boppert)

Next Meeting: May 8, 2025

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