

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

June 4, 2009

ROLL CALL

Present: Andy Kehr, Chairman Sheila Franklin, Secretary
 Betty Bader Richard Franklin
 Kelly Mosher Judy Walsh
Absent: Carl Dowden, Jeanne Duntz, Jennifer Fivelsdal, Susan Goldstein,
 Rose Rider

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Kehr called the meeting to order at 9:22 A.M.

COMMENTS

He said that he had brought to the Town Board the nomination of Dick Franklin to fill the vacant seat on the committee and expected to receive their approval. In anticipation of that approval, he expressed his appreciation to Dick for volunteering and welcomed him as a new member. He thanked Dick for all that he has already done for the Committee, saying that he has already been a great asset.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MAY 6, 2009 MEETING

Andy asked if there were any modifications or corrections to the Minutes. Hearing none, Judy made a motion to accept the Minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Betty and all were in favor.

PANDA

Dick reported that he had sent an e-mail to Peter Hutton at Bard requesting a meeting with him. Receiving no response after a reasonable period of time, he then contacted the President of the college, Leon Botstein. Dr. Botstein referred the matter back to Peter Hutton, copying Mr. Hutton on his an e-mail response to Dick. Andy questioned whether the lack of response to this request might be due to bad timing, this being the end of the academic year.

Dick said that he and Sheila had met with the Station Manager at PANDA regarding taking their training; however the day after their meeting, PANDA eliminated the position of Station Manager. Now they do not have anyone who can offer training. The Committee will have to be responsible for paying for, making and editing the tapes for the show. He noted that a package of three tapes costs about \$60 at Sam's.

Andy suggested that there might be an alternative solution to this problem. He asked if it would be possible to post a notice stating that the Committee is looking for a student to work on the project. Betty said that it should be an upper class student, either a junior or a senior. Dick stressed that there is a lot to putting together a show. He said that he had a radio show many years ago and there is a tremendous amount of work involved. Andy

said that he will talk to Jonathan Becker at Bard. Dick said that he knows Jonathan and asked Andy to have him call him as well. Andy said that he had e-mailed Roy Paisley at the High School, but has not yet had a response. Kelly offered to contact John Swanwick and Tim Fitzmaurice at RHBC, the Red Hook Broadcast Corporation. Andy said that he would forward to Kelly the e-mail he had sent to Roy Paisley.

Dick said that show topics should include crafts. He said that a few years ago he had done a program on woodcarving which was aired on PANDA. The show was about the program offered to seniors at the Dutch Reformed Church in Rhinebeck. Andy said that identifying topics will not be the problem. The Committee must make sure it can put the shows together. If no one at Bard or the High School is interested, he asked, can the filming be done using a camcorder? Dick replied in the affirmative but said that he would suggest using PANDA's equipment for the recording. Their studio set up would do very well for a panel discussion, he added. Betty asked if PANDA charges for the use of their equipment and Dick responded that they do not. He said that their equipment need not be used only in their studio; it can be taken out.

Dick said that editing the program poses a problem. There are many editing programs, he continued, and he does not know their cost. He felt that a high end program would not be necessary and that the cost might be around \$100. He added that he has a program, but did not know if it would work for this purpose. He again stressed that PANDA requires that the Committee submit a completed program and that this job is not a one man job. Andy said that the topic must first be identified, a storyboard created and someone must do the filming and editing in order to create a finished product.

Kelly said that the school has a studio and equipment, but she did not know if they would allow the equipment to be used off the school premises. Betty inquired about insurance liability and Kelly responded that there is coverage on site, but not off site. She did not, however, believe that this would be an issue. If it were done at the school, she continued, authorization would be needed.

Andy summarized the discussion, saying that he would speak to Jonathan Becker to see how the Committee can get the word out to the students. Kelly will follow through with RHBC. If there is no interest from both these sources, then, he said, the Committee will have to consider what it's next step will be.

FOOD DRIVE

Sheila said that she had e-mailed the thank you note to PANDA, the Poughkeepsie Journal and the Kingston Freeman. The e-mail response from the Journal indicated that the message had been deleted without being read. However, the Freeman did read and acknowledge receipt of the message. Therefore, they may print it. PANDA responded that they will run the thank you note soon. Betty said that she felt that the sign at the Firehouse was very effective. Andy agreed, saying that the sign was immediate and visible to all.

SENIOR READING PROGRAM

Andy said that Donna Gaynor now has four or five volunteers and they are enjoying the program. He said that he again advertised the program at the Town Meeting yesterday and the tape of the meeting will be run on PANDA. Betty said that she has friends who have gone to the program and they are enjoying it. They are there about half an hour and they go every week. She said that all the names she submitted have been contacted except one who was away and will be starting the program now that she has returned. Donna said that the First Grade is now interested, so the program may grow.

Betty asked if the school would like to run an announcement on PANDA in September and include the phone number of a contact person at the school. Andy said that he would talk to Donna about that and about sending out notices or flyers with the children in the Fall. Betty mentioned that notices could also be placed at the libraries in Red Hook and Tivoli.

MISSION STATEMENT

After discussion, the consensus of opinion was that there are three vital elements which should be included in the mission statement: assessing needs; gathering information about how to address these needs and heightening/promoting awareness of community resources.

The following statement was read by Betty and approved by all present.

The mission of the Red Hook Senior Services Committee is to serve as a resource for assessing the needs of the senior community, gathering information regarding how to address those needs and promoting the social, economic and health related services which impact upon the safety, independence and well-being of seniors.

Andy announced that those members who were not present would be asked to e-mail any comments they may have relative to the wording thus far agreed upon.

TOWN TRANSPORTATION

In the absence of Bob McKeon, this issue was tabled.

OTHER BUSINESS

Economic Development Survey

Andy said that he had not had any responses regarding the questionnaire. However, he spoke with Michelle Martin and they were just looking for generic feedback.

Dial A Ride

Andy read the Dial A Ride statistics for 2008 and 2009 winter usage which reflected an increase in Red Hook usage. He spoke with Mary Kay Dolan, the Aging Services Coordinator for the OFA and she said that one reason for the increase was that they had done PR. Andy asked how the Committee can get the Dial A Ride information to the public. He said that he made a report at the Town Meeting, and it was broadcasted on

PANDA. Judy noted that every time the Committee makes an effort to publicize the program, ridership goes up. Betty asked if the Town pays for Dial A Ride and Andy responded in the affirmative. She expressed concern about servicing the needs of residents of southern Columbia County who go to Northern Dutchess Hospital.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed to hold a meeting in July and Andy proposed that it be held on Thursday, July 9, 2009 at 9:15 AM in the Town Hall. He will be confirming this date.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Sheila Franklin
Secretary, Senior Services Committee