

Seven Oaks Senior Center Council
Monday, October 23, 2023, 12:30 p.m.
9210 Seven Oaks Drive, Nottingham, MD 21236

Present: Penny Brown, President; Gina Wheeler, Vice President; Rob Ermer, Treasurer; Gail Smith, 1st Assistant Treasurer; Pat Gallon, 2nd Assistant Treasurer; Bernadette Huber, Recording Secretary; Ed Konig, Member at Large; Betty O'Carroll, Sgt. at Arms; Ken Dornbush, Member at Large; Jim Lightner, Past President; Beckie Ebert, Director; Karen McDonough, Assistant Director; and Barbara Wilt, BCDA Home Team Coordinator' James Slone, Regional Manager.

Not present: Peg Myers and Nancy Bach.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President, Penny Brown, at 12:30 p.m.

Ed Konig and his helpers were thanked for preparing and serving lunch.

Minutes: The minutes of the August 28, 2023, were approved as distributed.

Financial Report: Rob Ermer reported the following for the month ending September 2023:

- Total income of \$25,190.00
- Total expenses \$78,460.62
- Net Income of -\$53,015.38
- Total Liabilities and Equity is \$108,889.90.

Rob reported that the 990 form has been completed and filed and the audit of the 2022 finances will be done in November.

Travel Report: Gina Wheeler reported that the Travel Fair is scheduled for November 18, 1:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. Members may sign up for trips at that time. There will be trips planned for the first six months of the year only. There may be a problem with the cost of some trips as some companies do not want to commit to prices so far in advance. Some of the prices may have to have approximate costs. A description of the programs will be given out in advance so people can review them before the meeting.

Sponsored Child: Penny reported that the commitment to the Vietnamese child ends December 2023. The relationship with this international group has not been positive, so it was decided to sponsor a child closer to home through *Children Incorporated*. Some of the criteria used in selecting this child were: he was a little older; he was closer to

here; he lived in a poverty area, and his parents were trying to provide a stable home. The child selected this year is Andrew, a nine-year-old boy from West Virginia where his mother works as a cook and father is attending college. *Children Incorporated* has a 10% administrative fee, so 90% of the amount donated will be used by the school to meet the child's needs.

Caring Across Our Community: The committee made a delivery on September 14. The stained-glass class has made Christmas ornaments and Edie has made small canvas bags in which to store them. These will be included in the gift bags to be delivered at the end of November.

Past Events:

- Honor Flight was held on – September 2. Another is planned in the future.
- Concert in the Park was cancelled due to the weather and rescheduled for May 22, 2024.
- Program Planning Meeting – September 8 – Event and charitable causes were discussed, and all members were invited to participate.
- Patriot Day Breakfast – September 11. Ed Konig chaired this event. Attendees enjoyed a tasty menu.
- No Senior Eat Alone – September 11. Forty-three people attended and Baltimore County Animal Services provided information about care of animals after the luncheon.
- BCDA 5K Run/Walk mile walk around the area. More seniors than previous years participated and donated.
- Acorn Contest – September – The two winners of this first contest were announced at the Friday café. There were 41 responses and 27 of those were correct. The October contest had many more responses and the winners have been selected. The November contest is ready to go as the newsletter is ready.
- Walk MD Day – October 4 – Karen lead seven or eight members around the neighborhood that day.
- The Crab Feast - October 5 - Rob Ermer reported that it was well attended and they had all positive comments.
- The Karaoke party on October 6, chaired by Pat Galiano, was a fun event. There were 20 participants, 13 of whom sang solo. Most people joined in the singing. More events like this are planned.
- Trunk Treasure Day scheduled for October 14 was cancelled. Very few people signed up to participate and the weather was rainy. A discussion of how or whether to proceed with this concept will be on the agenda for the November 17 Program Planning Meeting.

- MD Senior Citizens Hall of Fame – Ed Konig and Gina Wheeler were among the 23 seniors from around the State honored at the event.

New Board Member: Liz Albertini resigned from the Board as member at large. In accordance with the Bylaws a new member, Kenneth Dornbush was selected to fill the unexpired term. Ken was welcomed by the members present.

Incorporation: The positives and negatives of incorporating the Seven Oaks Council is being investigated by Rob Ermer.

Friday Café – The Executive Board will sponsor the November 17 Café. We hope other groups and/or individuals will step up to sponsor a future date.

Council Bulletin Board: Penny drew attention to the revitalized Council Bulletin Board and thanked Gina Wheeler and Peg Meyers for their help. A new section for *Volunteers Needed* has resulted in several members taking on tasks for the Center. We thank:

- Center Decorator – Pat Galiano
- Coupon Box Manager and Coffee Bar Organizer – Barbara Como
- Free Shelf Organizer – Sue Rende
- Card organizer and Holiday Tree Decorator – Betty Marlow

Several other positions have been posted, and chairpersons who need help are asked to contact Beckie, Karen, or Penny so the information can be posted.

Milestone Birthdays: Birthday cards have been sent to members who have celebrated special decade birthdays – 70, 80, 90 - in the past month. A list of the names of the celebrants is on the Bulletin Board. Peg Meyers is managing this project.

Enhancement Priority List: The authorized keyboard for the Oakettes has been purchased and utilized at two presentations by the group. Also, six music stands have been purchased for use by the guitar group and the Oakettes. As purchases are made from the Enhancement List approved at the previous Council meeting, they will be announced. Several items on the list are in process but need approval or action by the State.

Wreaths Across America: Seven Oaks, Parkville, and Overlea-Fullerton Senior Centers have joined to support the Loch Raven Optimist Club in providing and distributing wreaths to honor veterans at Parkwood cemetery. The plan is to purchase 3,500 wreaths. Wreaths cost \$17.00 each and if two are purchased a third is added free. Seven Oaks will contribute \$170.00 to purchase wreaths which will be distributed on December 16. Members can purchase wreaths at the front desk. The wreaths are made

of fresh greens with a red bow. Wayne Knowles is chairing this. Volunteers are needed to distribute the wreaths on December 16 and to pick them up in January.

Acknowledgements: Chairpersons and volunteers who have taken jobs for the Center have been posted on the Bulletin Board and sent thank you notes for their efforts.

Community News Bulletin Board: This Board will be receiving a facelift by Gina Wheeler and other volunteers. While we want to keep members informed of events in the general community, we need to keep the information up-to-date and not advertise events conflicting with ours.

Suggestion Box Recommendations:

- Trip to Toby's Dinner Theatre show 9 to 5 in January – referred to Travel Committee
- Trip to 9/11 Museum in NYC – referred to Travel Committee
- Recycle Aluminum Cans – Beckie said there is a problem with recycling because of when the pick-up is scheduled. She will contact someone at the Recycling Center to see if something can be worked out. We do collect the can tabs in the box at the coffee bar.
- Ticket sales – there were seven suggestions about ticket sales. After some discussion, a committee of Gina, Edie, Beckie, and Peg and possibly others will meet to develop written procedures for ticket sales for all events.

All suggestions are reviewed. It will be helpful if remedial recommendations are included with suggestions.

December Council Lunch: Betty O'Carroll will host and will work with Karen on menu, etc. Volunteers are needed to help.

Upcoming Events:

- Our first **restaurant fundraiser** will be held at the **Texas Roadhouse in White Marsh on Tuesday, October 24, 3 to 10 pm**. The Center will receive 10% of the amount spent by each customer who presents a flyer. Flyers cannot be given out in the parking lot, but members can pick them up at the front desk and give them to friends and neighbors.
- **Power of Age Expo** – October 26 – Timonium Fairgrounds. There will be information, exhibits, games, art contests, and entertainment. (Our tap dancers will perform.) Our exhibit is well staffed, with two volunteers for each session time. Parking is free and there will be shuttle buses from the parking lot to the building.

- **Volunteer Luncheon** – November 3 - Pappas Restaurant - Volunteers with 50 or more hours of service are invited to show appreciation for their service. Cathy Milando and Janet Chance are chairing this event. Volunteer of the year will be announced. Invitees are asked to RSV P by October 27.
- **Veterans Day Events** - November 8 – Ed Konig reported that there will be chipped beef for breakfast and lunch will include chicken, rice, and vegetables and period performer, Rosaline Carter, will make a presentation about the War of 1812. Tickets are available at the front desk. The winner of today’s raffle will receive two tickets.
- **Program Planning Meeting** – November 17 (1 pm) - The meeting will be held here in the multipurpose room. Members are urged to attend and bring their ideas for programs and charitable causes for next year.
- **Travel Fair** – November 18 – *See page 1 of minutes.*
- **Friendship Friendsgiving** - November 28 - This will include a friendship game, Friendly Feud, wrapping gifts for Veterans, friend trivia, a meal and singing a friendship song. Tickets on sale on November 7 and will be \$15.00.
- **Wreaths Across America** - December 16 – *See page 3.*
- **Christmas Party** at Rosedale Gardens – December 21 – Gina Wheeler is chairing this event. Tickets are \$40.00.
- **Adventure Club:** Cathy Milando reported that the events sponsored by the Adventure Club were well attended and enjoyable. Photos from some of the activities are on the Bulletin Board in the lobby. Members can sign up in the book at the front desk.
- **Happy Hours:** Kathy Milando, who coordinates the happy hour, urged people to participate but also to cancel if they cannot attend after signing up. While everyone gets their own ticket and pays their own charges, the restaurants make plans for the number of people signed up.
- **Dementia Project:** Jim Lightner drew attention to a program for care givers scheduled for November 17 by the Dementia Project at the Ateaze Senior Center. To sign up go on the Baltimore County Department of Aging website and click on Dementia Project.

Staff Reports:

Karen reviewed upcoming events. *(copy attached)*

Beckie commented about several issues.

- **Parking lot issues:** The cameras outside the Center are to deter vandalism, not to determine who is parked where or who might have dented someone’s fender. Beckie cannot handle parking complaints such as someone taking up two spaces.

- Members are asked to park between lines and not take up more than one space. If you need more space, go to the far end of the lot where there are ample open spots.
- There is \$425 in the Enhancement Fund. Members can contribute and may want to do so, particularly when they renew membership.
- Members were asked to suggest someone to be Volunteer of the Year. This is not a popularity contest. The names suggested will be considered by the Board and one person will be chosen. The box for suggestions was at the front desk and was in the weekly update.

BCDA Activities: James Slone urged everyone to attend the Power of Aging event on Thursday, October 26. He invited everyone to take a copy of the program booklets he brought with him.

Barbara Wilt asked for one volunteer to help with delivering food to home bound clients. Volunteers are needed to pick up food at food banks and deliver it to clients once a month. The food banks and clients are all around the area, usually within a couple of miles of the center. Time of pickup and delivery is up to the volunteer. Anyone interested should contact her or one of the staff here at the Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Submitted by, Bernadette Huber, Recording Secretary

Following adjournment:

- The winner of the raffle was announced.
- Members with October birthdays were recognized and everyone sang Happy Birthday to them. Penny presented them with a special birthday pencil.
- Cake was then served to everyone.