



TOWN OF BERLIN

COMMISSION FOR THE AGING

Minutes of Monday September 18, 2023

5:00 P.M.

Meeting held in person & open to the Public, on Zoom or by phone.

Attendance:

Barbara Gombotz- Chairwoman, Frank J. Slogeris, Ann Gamelin, Kay Murray and C. Roger Moss Jr.

Staff:

Victoria Helberg, Assistant Senior Center Director
Juliet Benjamin, Secretary

1.Call to Order:

Chairwoman Gombotz called the meeting to order at 5:10 P.M.

2.Roll Call:

Present: Barbara Gombotz- Chairwoman, Frank Slogeris, Kay Murray, Ann Gamelin and C. Roger Moss Jr.

3.Welcome New Commissioner C. Roger Moss Jr.

Chairwoman Gombotz welcomed Commissioner Moss to the Commission. She noted that it is nice to have a full contingency of Commissioners again.

4. Audience of Citizens:

Richard Krause, Elaine LaVallee, Arlene McGraw, Eloise Danko and Mayor Mark Kaczynski.

Misses LaVallee, McGraw and Danko expressed concern regarding the way tenants are chosen via lottery for available apartments at Marjorie Moore and Percival Heights. Ms. McGraw stated that she signed up for a senior apartment over six months ago and has been unsuccessful in contacting Housing Authority Chairman Bajorski to find out where she stands on the list for housing. The ladies questioned why the Housing Authority uses a lottery system of choosing tenants when other towns choose from the next names on the list. Chairwoman Gombotz noted that she can pass on the comments to Chairman Bajorski but this Commission has no authority over the Housing Authority and their procedures. Mayor Kaczynski suggested that they go to a Berlin Housing Authority monthly meeting or he would be happy to bring their concerns to the next Berlin Town Council meeting if they so desired.

Senior Housing Percival Ave. - Mayor Kaczynski spoke regarding the proposed Senior Housing at the former Knights of Columbus property on Percival Avenue. He explained that the Town Council had met to transfer documents for the construction of the project and they were awaiting transfer of thirty-four million dollars from Wells Fargo Bank. The transfer never took place and Housing Authority Chairman Bajorski had no plausible explanation as to why the funds were not transferred. Mayor Kaczynski stated that Chairman Bajorski has been blaming the Town for stalling the project which is not true. Efforts by the Town to contact Wells Fargo have been unsuccessful and the project is on hold until some information is received from Chairman Bajorski.

New Community/Senior Center -

Mayor Kaczynski assured the Commission that he and the Town Council are still looking at the Community/Senior Center project. He noted that they have to be cautious because the Town needs to be fiscally constructed. The project may end up being reduced in size or part of the Senior Center might stay in the existing location and part in the new building. He noted that many other towns that have similar large Senior/Community Centers are finding it difficult to keep up with the costs associated with the building. He further discussed the option of having the YMCA build the building for the Town. Residents would have to pay Membership fees to the Y, but he noted that it would be cheaper to have the Town cover the fees for all seniors than to build a multi-million-dollar building. He stated that the Town Council is looking at several options and that discussions will be ongoing. He suggested having a public forum at the Senior Center and getting input from seniors. Assistant Senior Director Helberg will discuss with Senior Center Director Doyle about a date for a proposed public forum, possibly in late October or mid-November.

5. Approval of Minutes – June 26, 2023 Meeting:

Commissioner Slogeris made a motion to accept the Minutes of the June 26, 2023 meeting, as written. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Commissioner Moss abstained. The Minutes were approved.

Chairman Ochoa noted that residents are always welcome to come to a Park & Recreation Commission meeting to express their concerns and what programs they would like to see.

6. Senior Center Director's Report from T. Doyle:

September 18, 2023

To: Commission for Aging Members

From: Tina Doyle

Re: Senior Center Director's Report

Current Activities:

Our Average Daily Attendance is as follows:

Avg Per Weekday	Monday	74.42
	Tuesday	64.29
	Wednesday	53.46
	Thursday	100.41
	Friday	39.22

Avg Per Day by Month	January	65.5
	February	72.44
	March	64.3
	April	70.42
	May	69.41
	June	63.1
	July	66.1
	August	63.87
	September	58.8

Our Transportation service requests have increased. We are providing transportation currently to 147 individuals to 121 different locations. We have provided 5188 rides (dup) from January to today.

MYSenior Center- As of today, 1209 seniors have their key tags. That is an increase of 29 since our last meeting in June 2023.

7. Discussion of Non-Resident Fee:

Commissioners agreed to discuss this item at the next meeting.

8. Report – Commissioner Frank Slogeris:

Commissioner Slogeris stated that Mayor Kaczynski had covered most of the items he would have discussed. He did wish to remind everyone to vote in the upcoming Election.

9. Senior Housing Report – Ann Gamelin:

Commission for the Aging – 9/18/2023

Commissioner Gamelin gave a brief report and noted that they had a Labor Day Picnic for residents of the senior housing.

10. Senior Center/Community Center Report – B. Gombotz:

See Mayor Kaczynski's remarks in the Audience of Citizens.

11. Old Business:

12. New Business:

Chairwoman Gombotz stated that she is concerned that hospitals have been telling patients that the Berlin Visiting Nurse Association is out of business and directing them to other agencies. The Berlin Visiting Nurse Association is very active and ready to help patients with their needs. Patients need to be aware that they must request the Berlin Visiting Nurse Association for follow-up and rehabilitation services.

13. Motion to Adjourn:

Commissioner Murray made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Slogeris seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Juliet Benjamin Secretary

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BERLIN TOWN CLERK



9/21/2023, 4:37:26 PM