

Community Center Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Ridgewood, N.J.

April 24, 2025

In attendance: Gwenn Hauck, Deanna Schablik, Mayor Paul Vagianos, Sheila Brogan, Cathy Greve (via Zoom), Claudia Fortunato, Lillian Blood, Beth Abbott (via Zoom).

5:09 p.m. Call to Order

For approval of March minutes Sheila motioned and Claudia seconded. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report—

- We are still in need of a treasurer for the Foundation. Gwenn is performing the role until we find someone. Deanna suggests that after the new Treasurer begins Gwenn remains the second signer on the accounts.
- Lillian may consider the Treasurer job.
- In the past month \$800 was spent from the Foundation main account on the April 22 Lunch and Learn.
- From the Foundation Taub account checks were written for \$2500 to Create Web Design for their work on the municipal toolkit, and \$4633 to Beth and \$1200 to Sheila for grant project compensation.

Old Business

- Gwenn is approved by the Village Council as a new member of the Community Center Advisory Board. We will obtain a copy of the resolution from the Village.
- The Mayor wants us to look into expanding and/or enhancing the Community Center. Gwenn is enthusiastic. For the May 7 Council meeting Nancy Bigos cannot attend so Gwenn asks the Mayor for another work session date for the community center proposed changes to be discussed.

The Mayor would like a cohesive proposal to be presented on programs, staff, etc.

- Claudia and Deanna toured three local community centers recently. Claudia is ready with ideas on proposals. At Montvale there was no director or staff on site. Fair Lawn had staff on site. All centers were fully scheduled from 9-3, with 2-4 staff on average based on Claudia's research. Lillian points out there are differences within the 55 and over population—some frail and some not, so it would be advisable to consider programming for all sub-groups. Social connections and physical activity both important. Sheila suggests we have lists of ideas grouped by infrastructure improvements, programming ideas, staffing changes, etc. People would like Nancy Bigos on board helping to argue for the upgrades. Claudia suggests a meeting of a sub-group to brainstorm and create a proposal. Possibly the Foundation could take on some of the smaller ideas/tasks identified.
- May 12 or later a meeting will be scheduled, called a “white board” meeting as we will list and modify ideas on a white board. Paul will speak to Keith about the best way to approach this moving forward. After the “white board meeting” happens we will consider the Village Council work session presentation.

Mayor's Report-Paul Vagianos

- Nothing additional to report.

Age Friendly Ridgewood- Beth Abbott and Sheila Brogan

- Nothing additional to report.

Community Center Report-Deanna Schablik

- The Lunch and Learn went super well.
- The next Lunch and Learn will take place on Tuesday May 27 at 11:30 am. Valley Hospital will be the sponsor and plan a speaker connected to Older Americans Month.
- Deanna reported several instances of positive feedback about the Lunch and Learn. It is clear residents want more events like this.

- The only issue with the Lunch and Learn was available parking. Sheila suggested or next time think about people parking at Graydon and Billy shuttles them over with the Ridgewood bus. Beth commented that a couple of attendees told her that it was difficult to hear some of the speakers. In the future Deanna may try to sit up front and adjust the sound system based on the speaker's projection.

Parks and Recreation Committee Report—Liz Kloak, reported by Deanna

- At the last meeting public comment was given encouraging two more pickle ball courts be created at Glen School.
- Nancy Bigos indicated that Health Barn is interested in sponsoring a Lunch and Learn.
- Dave Sayles gave a presentation about rental fees for the new pavilion space at Habernickel.

The next Meeting will be May 22 at 5 pm.

6:00 p.m. The meeting was Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Beth Abbott.