

Sherman Commission on Aging

Monday, March 11, 2013

Present: Jeanette Perlman, Lorna Barrett, Carol Voorhees, Peter Cohen, John Jenner, Jill Finch. Beth Trott, director. Lynne Gomez, clerk.

Purpose of meeting: To set the plans for the next forum.

Focus: Intergenerational? How Sherman is intergenerationally friendly, or not. There is a lot of discussion on the state level, is your community senior friendly?

Goal: To bring in the next generation of volunteers supporting a vibrant Sherman.

Discussion followed on the prior forums, target audiences, timeframes, and the needs of Sherman. Discussions included the possibility of a Spring Clean up Day, matching seniors with youngsters and families in spring cleaning efforts. A working title emerged: "Building Our Future in Sherman." John Jenner was lauded for his intergenerational efforts with the Roger Sherman Cobbler Shop and subsequent summer workshops for children.

Discussion followed regarding a community evaluation available to Sherman to determine met and unmet needs. Bringing together music and food was discussed. Discussion ensued on events. Suzette recommended a forum to coordinate volunteer efforts or a volunteer open house.

Jeanette noted that if people in town don't invest in the town, they are sitting on the sidelines saying there is nothing for them in Sherman. The way you feel good about a community is becoming part of a community. Intergenerational is just a way of life in some communities.

Result: Commission is looking to develop an event with music and food and have it at the New Fire House. It would include tables for all the volunteer organizations in town. Let the various organizations present themselves. Booth. Talk. Make pitch. Volunteer recruiting vehicle. Move the date into the fall.

Organizational meeting: Saturday, May 18 breakfast meeting 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Food: Breakfast casseroles and goodies from Cheryl H.

Where: Senior Center.

Invitees: Suzette and Lynne will get list of contact people on all local volunteer boards.

Facilitator and ongoing chair: COA (Jeanette)

Goal: to be the first in a series of committee meetings to plan the Fall Volunteer Fair.

Food providers: Carol, Lynne, John, make casserole.

Muffins, Jill. Borrow Big coffee pot.

Needs: List of volunteer boards, including Scouts, nairomi, library, higher education fund, historical COA, FISH, hungerford, veterans, Sherman players, Rescue animal. Fire Dpartment.

Jeanette will develop draft letter for next week's COA meeting, on March 18. Letter is from Commission on Aging.

Letter should include following points: Not asking them for anything. COA has been thinking about need to talk about how to bring more volunteers into all our organizations. We would like to have meeting in May begin to talk about how we can do that and support each other. For future recruitment of all organizations. In order to facilitate this, we propose a town wide Community Volunteer Trade Fair.

This would be helpful. It develops the building blocks for all of Sherman. Add email list.

Looking at 3 events:

- Planning event: first meeting: May 18
- Volunteer Fair: Fall
- Workshop for local organizations with strategic planner as main focus: end of 2013 or early 2014. Lorna: How can we insure for the future, that your group will have people to take it to the next level. If you have a strategic planning person, very specific process. Get it going so they would develop strategic plans, where do we overlap, how do we get people.

Planning session of March 11 ended at 10:10 a.m.

Submitted,
Lynne Gomez

Interesting cultural anecdote: Most new FISH volunteers are men, Carol reports. Newly retired. More men at Book Discussions too. Family role is different too. Cultural issue. How is culture of volunteerism changing?