

South Orange Senior Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes July 20, 2021, via Webex

Attendees

Lawrence Aronson, Karen Boss, Sam Convissor, Sandra Dickerson, Bill Graves, Shirley Gordon, Harold Colton-Max, Pearl Meema, Tonia Moore, Sandy (on phone), Tracy Carroll, Carmen Morales, Jackie Herships (joined about 5:19)

June Minutes

Motion to approve last month's meetings minutes was made by Mr. Convissor and seconded by Mr. Aronson. The motion was approved.

Future Meetings

The group wants to use SOMA Two Towns Zoom account instead of South Orange Village Webex. Ms. Carroll will check to see if this is possible since minutes have to be posted to the town website.

Mr. Colton-Max asked if there is a plan to resume in person meetings. Will South Orange allow this given department of health guidelines? Tracy will check this out.

Mr. Colton-Max made a motion to resume in person meetings in August. Larry seconded it. Vote results: 2 in favor, 9 opposed. The motion did not pass.

South Orange Environmental Committee meeting

Ms. Herships attended the meeting as committee members are trying to be present for Village committee meetings to represent the senior perspective. Ms. Graves attended the meeting also. The EC discussed waste, especially Styrofoam and plastic straws, both will be illegal in South Orange in 2022.

Ms. Herships suggested creating a SOSAC subcommittee, a senior Green Squad, to educate businesses about the upcoming Styrofoam and plastic straw ban.

Sam commented that business owners have no sense of environmental concerns. There was general agreement that businesses should start transitioning as soon as possible to be prepared for the changes coming in January. Mr. Convissor asked if there were steps in place via the Village to accomplish this. We agreed that Ms. Graves would be a good source to get a better understanding of any processes being developed by the Village.

Mr. Graves informed the group about the public session to be held on July 23rd to Reconsider Recycling for South Orange and Maplewood. To attend you must register via the Village website. Mr. Convissor noted that Maplewood is considering town wide composting. Restaurants don't do any composting now. Bill added that we have a one-year contract with our hauler for single stream pick up but we don't know where that recyclable material goes, a landfill or incinerator.

Per Ms. Moore, Millburn is collecting aluminum cans to raise money for the St. Barnabas Burn Center. Can we do something like that?

Ms. Herships made a motion that we form a Senior Green Squad as a subgroup of the SOSAC and other members of the community.

Ms. Boss, Ms. Moore, and Ms. Herships will work to educate businesses about the elimination of styrofoam and plastic straw use next year per NJ State Statue.

Ms. Graves is working with a Brooklyn company to make a presentation on environment friendly take-out containers. For the company to give a local presentation, eight (8) businesses must agree to participate.

Ms. Gordon suggested that we all serve as ambassadors and talk to business owners about the new restriction when we dine out in town. Ms. Herships added that Lorraine is having difficulty getting the Brooklyn company to come. Apparently, they prefer to work in other states. Mr. Aronson noted that

South Orange Senior Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes July 20, 2021, via Webex

our local businesses have to change while Ms. Boss agreed that we can talk to businesses about the pending change. Mr. Aronson believes this is the responsibility of the Environmental Commission. Ms. Morales provided clarification of the state's elimination of Styrofoam and plastic straws. It is effective May 2022, not in January.

Ms. Moore suggested we pilot talking to local restaurants about their use of Styrofoam understanding that they will have questions. Through the pilot we can gather information. Ms. Herships will talk to Ms. Graves about getting SOSAC involved. Restaurant owners may not be receptive since some are just staying afloat. Given the many questions we have, perhaps Ms. Graves can come and give a presentation with options to replace Styrofoam.

Ms. Herships pointed out that we still need to work on a looming concern about our high taxes in South Orange.

Walking Audits

Ms. Carroll will send the walking audit results to date to the Village Clerk for distribution to Village Board of Trustee Members.

Senior Engagement

1. Yoga in the Park

Ms. Moore is teaching Gentle Yoga. She currently has 3 students and is in the third week of the course.

2. Water Aerobics and Zumba

A segment with of the committee, Ms. Meema, Ms. Boss, Ms Moore, and Ms. Carroll, is working with Peter Travers in recreation to offer water aerobics and a Zumba class. Current thought was to offer the water aerobics class on a Saturday morning. The group is still trying to secure an instructor for both classes. Mr. Convisser suggested changing the day for water aerobics since Saturday is the Jewish Sabbath.

3. Additional Exercise Opportunities

Mr. Colton-Max let us know that B'Nai Brith senior housing location, 219 South Orange Avenue, has an outdoor recreation area. He offered to hold classes there but some repairs may need to take place before that can happen. However, he can make that happen.

4. Games in the Park

Ms. Dickerson asked about the kind of games that we envision having at the SO Skate House. Since we weren't selected a winner of the AARP Community Challenge Grant, we don't have money for games for the Skate House. Ms. Morales suggested we try Buy Nothing as a good source for free games. It was acknowledged that we need to have a person to monitor the use and return of games on site.

In the future, we will need a closet in the remodeled Baird Center where games can be stored. For now, the Skate House is the best place for this.

Update from SOMA Two Towns for All Ages

- The Volunteer Fair will be on November 13th, 1 - 4 pm, at the Woodlands.
- The Repair Cafe will be held at Morrow UMC on October 16th, 1 - 4 pm.

South Orange Senior Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes July 20, 2021, via Webex

- Classic Card invitations letters were sent to businesses. We will get the results from the organizations closest to new businesses, Springfield Ave Business Partnership, South Orange Village Community Alliance. We will research the feasibility of providing businesses with window stickers and ordering key ring tags to supplement the Classic Card.
- Skate House- It's important for games to be complete and boxed in good shape. We could ask residents to donate them via Nextdoor and Facebook but have to require they be in excellent condition. We don't currently have tables but may be able to use rec tables since summer camp will be over.

Driving and Pedestrian Safety

Ms. Moore raised the concern that there hasn't been any intervention at the intersection of Laurel and Longview. A stop sign is desperately needed there.

Ms. Carroll introduced a potential partnership with local author, Charlotte Attenborough, who wrote, **Zahir, Get out of the Street**, a book about pedestrian safety for children. This would be an intergenerational opportunity to bring pedestrian safety to the forefront. Sam suggested we work with the book's publisher to arrange an event and get a few copies for our library.

Ms. Moore suggested incorporating a reading of the book on Newcomers Day, October 3rd, 1-3 at Floods Hill. This would give us the opportunity to talk about safety and perhaps raffle ten books. Need to follow up with Summer Jones on this.

Ms. Boss suggested we give out maps of the town to new residents on Newcomers Day. Perhaps Ken Krasner or David Krieger can help with this. Town maps were available during the Master Planning process. How can we get some of them?

Consider launching a Pedestrian Safety Program for children and adults.

Ms Gordon made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Karen Boss

Next Steps

1. Ms. Carroll will check to see if this is possible since minutes have to be posted to the town website. Will South Orange allow this given department of health guidelines?
2. Ms. Graves would be a good source to get a better understanding of any processes being developed by the Village.
3. Millburn is collecting aluminum cans to raise money for the St. Barnabas Burn Center. Can we do something like that?
4. Ms. Moore suggested we pilot talking to local restaurants about their use of Styrofoam understanding that they will have questions. Through the pilot we can gather information.
5. Ms. Herships will talk to Ms. Graves about getting SOSAC involved.
6. Given the many questions we have, perhaps Ms. Graves can come and give a presentation with options to replace Styrofoam.
7. Ms. Carroll will send the walking audit results to date to the Village Clerk for distribution to Village Board of Trustee Members.
8. The group is still trying to secure an instructor for the fall Zumba class

South Orange Senior Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2021, via Webex

9. Mr. Colton-Max offered to hold classes there but some repairs may need to take place before that can happen. However, he can make that happen.
10. Ms. Morales suggested we try Buy Nothing as a good source for free games.
11. We need to have a person to monitor the use and return of games on site.
12. In the future, we will need a closet in the remodeled Baird Center where games can be stored
13. We don't currently have tables but may be able to use rec tables since summer camp will be over.
14. A stop sign is desperately needed at the intersection of Laurel and Longview.
15. Sam suggested we work with the publisher of **Zahir, Get Out of the Street** to arrange an event and get a few copies for our library.
16. Consider incorporating a reading of the book (**Zahir, Get Out of the Street**) on Newcomers Day, October 3rd, 1-3 at Floods Hill. This would give us the opportunity to talk about safety and perhaps raffle ten books. Need to follow up with Summer Jones on this.
17. A suggestion was made to give out maps of the town to new residents on Newcomers Day. Perhaps Ken Krasner or David Krieger can help with this. Town maps were available during the Master Planning process. How can we get some of them?
18. Consider launching a Pedestrian Safety Program for children and adults.