Haverford Township - Senior Citizens Advisory Council

Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 1014 Darby Rd., Havertown Pa., 19083 - Room B

Regular Meeting Minutes

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Victor Barsky, Council Chair

Roll Call

Present: Council Chair: Victor Barsky (Ward 9), Council Vice-Chair: Peggy Murr (Ward 4). Council Members: Diane Amadio (Ward 7), Maggie Burke-Maritsis (Ward 3), Alan Letofsky (Ward 5), Christine McLaughlin (Ward 2), Rita Waters (Ward 8), Bruce Yasgur (Ward 6); Eileen Mottola (Township Staff Liaison and Assistant Manager of Parks and Recreation), Conor Quinn (Commissioner - Ward 7)

Absent: Carla Rogers (Ward 1)

Public Comment – None

Approval of Minutes from the March 17, 2026 Meeting – Motion to Approve / Seconded / Approved Unanimously

Guest Speaker from The Haverford Township Free Library – The new Library Director, Maryanne Olson, gave a presentation that highlighted existing, new and upcoming offerings at the library. These included 3-D printing capability (of particular interest to men); more future instructions from The Haverford Guild of Craftsmen; broader reach of home delivery beyond just The Quadrangle; a new Chess Club; Museum Passes (Museum Key is now available to book passes online); and Hoopla for reserving e-books and audio books (though not as current as Libby). Diane Amadio raised the need for offerings for those with seeing challenges. The library has software to help with magnification, and Maryann will check further on this and the machine that assists with hearing impairment. Maryann further discussed the new Library of Things, where various items can be rented for a week. For example: lawn games, label makers, fishing kits, etc.

The HTSCAC members spoke further with Maryanne about additional activities for seniors, with a particular focus for men, as most activities currently seem attractive to only women. Victor believes that repeat activities (weekly, monthly, etc.) will help to get more seniors out. Currently, there are 8 senior nights out at the CREC and communicating these activities more broadly from the library will help reach a wider readership. Maryanne asked HTSCAC to put our heads together to come up with more activity suggestions and meet with the library regularly on ideas. Diane Amadio highlighted the cart of laptops in the library and asked about doing tutorials for things like Ancestry.com. It was referenced that you can “book a librarian” to be educated or trained on certain topics. A new local history room is also in process of being rolled out at the library, including machines. Alan Letofsky suggested having a dedicated person at the library to assist with technology training on a regular basis. The FIFA World Cup and other sporting event viewings could also be of interest for seniors (especially men). Significant interest was shown in hosting another Senior Citizens Open House at the

library, like when the library reopened. The HTSCAC estimated about 40 attendees, and suggested it be held on a Thursday evening in the second or third week of June from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Christine McLaughlin will coordinate with the library to secure a date. A motion to move forward and spend up to $500 on refreshments – Motion to Approve by Alan / Seconded by Chris / Approved Unanimously

Chairperson's Report – Chair - Victor Barsky –

ElderNet opportunity in Haverford Township – As the feedback from ElderNet's 3/17 Board Meeting has been delayed due to their current attention on their 50th anniversary, and prior years' unfruitful efforts, HTSCAC members agreed it is time to move away from pursuing ElderNet services and redirect focus on COSA, Surrey and DelGO offerings for seniors. Peggy Murr reported that some funding at COSA had been cut for grandparents to work in childcare centers and that many of the COSA programs are focused on low-income seniors. Alan Letofsky reported his personal experiences and challenges with Surrey related to medical transportation, housecleaning, and a writer's class offering. Although a grant had previously been awarded under the Biden Administration to work with Surrey, it was found that Havertown seniors were not travelling to Broomall when Surrey moved from Havertown, so the grant was never used. It was noted that Surrey does have a good consignment shop.

Short and long-term project planning – topics, budgets, subcommittees – for example: senior community outreach (activities, events, communications, needs). Looking back at HTSCAC survey results. – agenda item not discussed at meeting.

2026 Calendar of Haverford Township Senior Citizens Advisory Council Meetings – potential May "working session" to replace no May meeting? – agenda item not discussed at meeting

Old Business

Emergency CPR Training for seniors – approval to move forward to secure a single June date and Township Building location with Officer McCans and for the HTSCAC budget to pay $20 per person (for approximately 25 participants) for the formal certification cards. The training will run a couple of hours. Peggy Murr to contact Officer McCans. Motion to Approve by Victor / Seconded by Rita / Approved Unanimously

Narberth Ambulance Emergency "File of Life" medical information cards will be obtained from Officer McCann specifically for the CPR training and other separate events.

Branding, marketing and communications plan re the HTSCAC activities and accomplishments – get onto Commissioners' agendas and newsletters. Other centralized communications? – agenda item not discussed during meeting.

Haverford Township Day – October 3, 2026 – what materials / handouts to put at Commissioners' table – agenda item not discussed during meeting.

New Business

Haverford Township Men's Club creation – Maggie Burke-Maritsis raised the idea of specific regular gatherings for men for activities that exist or could be enhanced.

Carla Rodgers (Ward 1) replacement – Victor and Peggy will speak with the Commissioners about nominees for this position. Carla's last meeting as a HTSCAC member will be June 16, 2026.

Downsizing belongings for senior citizens – when are next township-wide recycling or donation events? Help get word out? – agenda item not discussed during meeting

Equipment for seniors at playgrounds – Victor advised that some playgrounds have started to introduce playground exercise equipment for seniors, like the Bryn Mawr Polo

Field, and suggested we should keep our ears out for other opportunities where this may work.

July and September help with HTSCAC Minutes and Agendas – agenda item not discussed during meeting.

Haverford Township Earth Day Festival at Bailey Park – April 25, 2026 – 10 am to 1 pm – Victor reminded all that the Environmental Committee is requesting assistance from HTSCAC with manning tables.

Announcements – Peggy Murr announced that the Centenarian Celebration Luncheon is being held at Drexelbrook on May 14, 2026. The cost is $25.00. Also, the Irish Diaspora Center (920 West Chester Pike, Havertown) is having an open house on Saturday, April 25. The center runs a lot of senior events and has weekly lunch gatherings. www.icphila.org

Main Point Documentary – Peggy Murr reported that the Kelly Center is currently focused on supporting the 250th anniversary but will keep the conversation going at the appropriate time for a repeat of the Main Point Documentary showing that was so well received.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm by Rita / Seconded by Victor / Unanimous Approval