

AGENDA NILMA MEETING

OCTOBER 8, 2014

3:00 PM

GREAT MEADOW HALL

Call to Order	Len Green
Approval of September 11, 2014 Meeting Minutes	
Signage at entrance to NewBridge	John Averell
Disappearance of items (produce and plants) from garden	Raya Dreben
Food and Beverage Department's process for changes Members	All Council
Old Business	
New Business	
Adjourn	

Call to Order

Len Green

Meeting was called to order at 3 PM by Len Green, President.

Present: NILMA members Len Green, John Averell, Jay Berkson, Betty Rosencranz, Bob Sandman, Gloria Lerner, Howard Cohen, Sue Waxman, Jerry Sands, Raya Dreben, (late);

with Steve Colwell, Marilyn Stone.

Absent was: Arnie Heiger

Guest: Sal Filetti

Approval of September 11, 2014 Meeting Minutes

John moved that the following amendment be made to the NILMA minutes of September 11, 2014 as distributed:

In the section headed "Notification of IL Residents in Rehab -- Raya Dreben" The last paragraph of the section should be replaced by the following to read:

"Steve agreed to have Rabbi Judi give a list of people in rehab **willing to have visitors** to Kelly.

Residents can view the list and go to rehab themselves to get more information."
[Changes made in bold print]

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of September 11 as amended without change. The motion passed unanimously.

Len explained for those in the audience that the date change for today's meeting was because the usual Thursday falls on Sukkot, so the meeting was moved one day earlier. The time change from 2 to 3 P.M. was because of a previous program commitment.

Signage at entrance to NewBridge

John Averell

John stated that in our July 2013 meeting a motion was approved to have the signpost currently placed about 50 feet before the Stop sign incoming to the Great Meadow circle to a position that is visible to stopped vehicles at the sign. Steve agreed to do it at high priority.

Steve stated that he is waiting for a quote for the job. Concrete has to be poured for the foundation. The signpost will be moved to the right of the Adelson sign across the road from the Stop sign.

Disappearance of items (produce and plants) from garden

Raya Dreben

Len deferred this item pending arrival of Raya at the meeting.

Food and Beverage process for changes

All Council Members

Len asked Sal Filetti to update us on the status of the process.

Sal explained that he has been working on the options to reduce the 20% overage on food costs in Centro. He or his staff have visited 7 of the 11 floor meetings to explain options and to gather feedback from residents. There are still some future meetings to attend to add to the following summary.

- 1) Disallow food credits in Nosh store. This would retain the unspent food credits in the NBOC financial system. Only 28% of residents voted yes on this.
- 2) Menu engineering: Sal and his team would review the entire menu for changes in different items, menu selection, pricing in general, variety, and portion size. 77% were in favor of this.
- 3) For an increase in residents' monthly fee of \$25, an increase in food credits of \$50 would be allowed and for an increase in fee of \$50, an increase of food allowance of \$100 would be granted. Support was 29% and 7% respectively.

Sal indicated that in this not-yet-complete polling, residents seem to feel that menu engineering, involving best efforts on a number of issues, is the best way to proceed. He offered several specific examples of ways to accomplish this.

There are two meetings with the Food Committee scheduled on Oct 14 and Nov 5 in which options will be studied in detail. Sal hopes to rollout changes around November 9 if possible.

Betty observed that food purchases in the store are not all for outside donations, but also are a main source of food purchases for some residents. She also felt that the purchases in store are still income for NBOC. The effect on deficit is somewhat an accounting matter. She quoted entries in a previously distributed table of finances. On examination, Steve disputed some of the figures presented.

Steve stated that food costs are now running about 60% of food service budget, whereas the aim is 50%. In effect food costs are being subsidized by monthly fees. The aim is to make the budget break even, not to make money.

Marilyn asked if the store purchase option would require payment in cash if adopted. Sal said (in effect) yes, but that is off the table as an option because of

unpopular response. Steve said that the menu engineering option is the one to be pursued.

Jerry asked that an RFP be issued to additional vendors for better pricing. He gave an example for lox.

Sal stated that this is done every time a bid is asked by John Greaves and Eileen. However the balance between price and quality is a major consideration, particularly lox.

Len questioned the dates that Sal is working with. The next NILMA meeting is scheduled for Nov 13, four days after the proposed rollout. In a past resolution approved by NILMA we have asked to be apprised of any substantial changes to the quality of life of IL residents, for discussion in a NILMA meeting before implementation.

Steve stated that his view is that the approval of residents in 7 floor meetings to proceed with menu engineering constitutes the necessary discussion, with the addition of votes from the remaining 4 floor meetings to be evaluated.

John asked if the questions that would be discussed and asked at floor meeting could be supplied to those reps who have not yet had meetings, so that we can see what votes we will be asked to make. Steve agreed to include these in his next letter.

Len felt that a consensus has already been shown by residents on the direction to proceed, which we expect will be confirmed in the remaining floor meetings. He asked the Council members present if they agreed (informally) that at the moment we have this consensus; a show of hands was unanimous.

Bob questioned the meaning of the 28% support (for example) meant. What is the criterion for support?

Steve said that levels around 50% would not be definitive, but that levels of 28% or 77% are clear enough for consensus purposes.

In answer to a comment by Len, Sal said that the details that would come out of the menu engineering are still to be worked out by his staff and the Food Committee; Len concurred with his personal confidence in this process and Betty also agreed.

Jerry raised the question of using frozen products. His experience with some products have indicated that good frozen products can be had at lower price than fresh, and are often as good. Steve said that such comparisons have been done before on trial basis, and can be done in future. Most have resulted in drastic drop of sales.

Sal said that residents have clearly spoken of the desire to keep fresh items like fish, chicken, and beef. His feedback from floor meetings is that quality not be sacrificed in future menus.

Bob raised the issue of vegetables, where frozen may be "better" than "fresh". Sal reiterated the policy established with the Food Committee to use farm fresh products where possible. Seasonal availability will be taken into account.

Len asked for a general informal agreement that Sal's plan for proceeding with menu engineering be approved provisionally. There being no adverse comments from the reps, he asked Sal to continue with his best efforts to reengineer the menu to result in a better balanced budget.

Disappearance of items (produce and plants) from garden Raya Dreben

Raya stated that since the garden is over for the season, that this item be deferred until next spring.

On a request to explain what happened, Raya said that some tomatoes, peppers, and some plants were stolen, and this was quite upsetting.

Old Business

(None)

New Business

Jerry suggested that the 4-strain flu vaccine be offered to our residents rather than the 3-strain version. Steve replied that the order has been placed already and that the regular strain is coming. Jerry suggested that the order be cancelled and that the more powerful 4-strain vaccine be ordered as it is recommended for seniors. Steve said that he will send a note to the supplier, but he does not think they will be able to change it.

Jerry asked that every hand sanitizer and soap dispenser be filled regularly and used by all.

He also asked that if a resident is ill that the \$5 fee for food delivery be waived and that they not come to the dining room. Steve said this is already waived now.

He also asked that residents not invite family members with colds or other symptoms of communicable illness to visit here. Also no visitors to the RSU patients with flu-like symptoms should be made except by the spouse.

Steve will publish Jerry's list in his letter.

Sue reported that her Primary Care Physician advised her not to get the 4-strain flu vaccine. It can in some people cause problems and reactions, and that it should be a personal decision. Her PCP is not offering the 4-strain vaccine. It may be available at CVS or Walgreens if you want it.

Betty reported that she and Mel got 3-strain shots at Brigham & Women's and that they are not offering the 4-strain version.

Steve said that the medical department ordered the "regular adult" vaccine. In response to Jerry's suggestion, he will inquire whether a small additional order of 4-strain could be ordered for use on request here.

Howard reported that at the cottages, trash collectors habitually leave covers of containers off after emptying them, whether it is raining or not. This makes problems in use of the containers if there is water left in it. Residents have asked housekeeping to remedy this.

Sue reported that trash and recycling collection has often left messy remains and tops off, and nothing seems to be done about the problem despite email complaints.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

John Averell, Recording Secretary