

Chester Village Family Council  
Minutes of February 28th Meeting

Our February Family Council meeting was opened by Askari asking if there were any questions arising from our January minutes...there were none.

The second item on the agenda was the question of a confidentiality agreement. We have had an unwritten but understood agreement but it was unanimous to go ahead with a written form. Askari had spoken with another care facility and they were happy to share theirs with him. He will look into this further with Lynne.

The next item had to do with filing taxes for our family members. Askari mentioned that there had been a volunteer who helped out in this area but not since Covid. He will get in touch with CRA and ask if someone will have a discussion on this topic with our group.

A family member had attended a one hour webinar hosted by CRA where questions were answered in a broad manner, not specific, and she found it very helpful. CRA also supplied a link with further information.

It was asked if Chester Village—provides tax receipts?

- can a portion of the yearly cost of living at CV be recovered as well as a portion of Medi System prescription costs?
- on hiring outside support when needed?
- hearing aids, etc.?

A family member brought up Form T2201, with its potential credits being very worthwhile to look into. It opens doors to tax deductions for care givers and also provides disabled parking signs. Once again, Askari will check into this to set up a time during one of our regular meetings to have these and other questions answered .

The fourth idea brought up was Coming Events. Morgan, CV's Activation Manager, has a list of activities and entertainment coming up. One of the entertainments scheduled for this month will be the CV choir. Monthly Activity Schedules are posted in each unit and can also be found on Chester's website....click on "Services" and choose "activities/special events".

The fifth item was Wills and Estates as a future topic. Askari mentioned he has a contact for this topic.

There followed quite an active discussion. One family member told us that getting a Power of Attorney was quite involved and a real learning experience, while another said how challenging it is without one.

Preferences between POA and joint accounts were discussed, the pros and cons, and it was quite obvious that having a POA was the best route, cancelling the possibility of problems with personal relationships causing difficulties in accounts with joint access. Ruth suggested that a

POA should be set up for both health and financial decisions and very important to have these discussions while our loved ones are able to make their own decisions.

The sixth and last item was Questions/Comments/Suggestions for future Family Council

A family member felt that we should be dedicated to work toward enhancing the lives of our residents.

To that end—where do we stand with volunteers?

—what can volunteers do?

—we should have a connection with a daycare and school

Another family member told us that she knew of a care facility that had a Recreational Programme Committee made up of activation staff, residents and family members.

Further questions—how do we go about recruiting volunteers?

—how well known are Family Council meetings?

—how do we get the word out?

Thinking of CV residents, it was brought up that although CV is a full care facility (with no assisted living) with needs growing exponentially on the one hand, the demographic is changing somewhat with some “younger” people coming in. With that in mind, what can we do to work toward enhancing the lives of our residents?

*Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 27th*

- *watch your email for timing and Zoom link.*