

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – December 13, 2017

Board Members Present: Carol Airasian, Bertha Anderson, Esther Keaney, Mary Keenan, Linda Moffitt, Alice Wadden, Pat Gold, Burt Greenberg

Excused Absence: Dorothy-Jean Brown

Staff Members Present: Anne-Marie Gagnon, Director and Debbie Dunn, Program Coordinator.

Anne-Marie Gagnon called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and Carol Airasian seconded.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting, November 8, 2017

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the November 8, 2017 meeting. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve and Linda Moffitt seconded. Passed.

Review of Financial Statements

Anne-Marie reviewed the Financial Statements noting that we will be receiving bills for transportation services soon. We received Federal Title III money from Springwell which will allow us to offer rides to doctors' appointments in Boston via McCue's Taxi which is Springwell's approved vendor.

Expenses in Food & Related and Program Services are on target. The Food Pantry has been receiving more donations due to the press it received in the Watertown Tab through the Tab's Gifts of Hope campaign. The Project Bread grant of \$5,000 has been spent to provide Target gift cards for families in need who visit the Food Pantry.

Update on December Activities

- a. The Holiday Boutique was a nice event sponsored by the Friends of the COA. The Boutique was held in the Activity Room over two days. We are still receiving monetary donations for the event, but it has raised \$960 as of the meeting. The funds will help to support food and entertainment for programs in the new year.
- b. The Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, December 15, 2017. Special thanks to Rae Grassia's daughter for volunteering to decorate the gym with the hanging lanterns. We expect 100 guests and the Mellowtones and Phil Cefalo will perform. The Friends will help to provide gift cards and gift baskets and there will be a list of businesses who supported the event on the tables. Thank you to Bertha Anderson for arranging the flowers.

Update on Grants

The AARP MA grant will be spent once the UMass researcher sends us her report of the Age Friendly forum. We expect to receive it by the end of January. Councilor Palumbo, who attended the forum in November, suggested we present the findings of the report at an upcoming Town Council meeting.

The Watertown Community Foundation awarded the Food Pantry \$1600 for a new upright freezer and folding tables and \$1000 to the Council on Aging for transportation to bring residents to the Center.

New Business

Tom Tracy, Town Auditor, and Nancy Heffernan, Treasurer/Collector will present in January about tax exemptions and the new Community Preservation Act (CPA). January will also offer programs on Lifeline, Medication Management and the falls prevention program, Matter of Balance. To accommodate more patrons, we will be moving our Thursday movies from the lounge to the back activity room and offering pizza. With our case worker, Marina Kirsanova and a new volunteer, we have initiated a Telephone Reassurance program for seniors who wish to participate in a friendly check-in call. We are hoping to hold another Valentine event in February like last year. We are also planning an event in celebration of Saint Patrick's Day.

Anne-Marie is exploring the idea of a taxi voucher program. This would allow seniors an opportunity to cost-share their rides and may offer more flexibility in destinations. Anne-Marie will continue to research voucher programs and report back her findings to the Board in the coming months.

Marsha Lenhoff has been elected the new Treasurer for the Friends of the Council on Aging. Mary Keenan is President and Mary Russo is Secretary.

Carol Airasian moved to adjourn and Mary Keenan seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Gagnon