

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – February 14, 2017

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

Excused Absence: N/A

Staff Members Present: Anne-Marie Gagnon, Director; Deborah Dunn, Program Coordinator; and Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk.

Pat Gold called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the January 10, 2018 meeting. Dorothy-Jean Brown made a motion to approve and Linda Moffitt seconded. Passed.

Review of Financial Statements

Anne-Marie Gagnon, Director, reviewed the financial statements. We are on target for spending the Program Services line item. Debbie Dunn reported that the Food & Related line item will be spent down with the new addition of pizza at the Thursday movie. Pat Gold noted an increase in the Eversource rate. Anne-Marie reported that our bill did increase due to the recent cold weather days and, with the repair to the hot water, an increase in hot water usage. Our increase for next year should be 3%. The Food Pantry has received many donations in the last month. Coordinator Kathy Cunningham is doing a great job with the Food Pantry. She is organizing the volunteers and meeting people in the community.

Spring Survey of Programs and Classes

Anne-Marie discussed the recent distribution of a Spring survey to all program participants. Debbie Dunn noted that on a scale of 1-5, we received mostly 5s but some seniors did question the parking. The survey asked what seniors would like to see and Debbie noted that some seniors would like to see more lectures regarding health. Anne-Marie feels we got some great feedback and we plan to do the surveys seasonally.

- a. Debbie reported that the February Brunch on February 21, 2018 will be catered by Matilda's. There will be 40 guests with Ryan Lally performing his magic show.
- b. Debbie reported the March Potato Bake on March 13, 2018 will be sponsored by Home Instead with Irish music and a possible slide show on Ireland by Tom Lewis.
- c. The CharlieCard Day will take place on March 27, 2018. The event is sponsored by the Office of State Senator Will Brownsberger. Seniors can sign up or renew their cards at the senior center and the cards will be mailed directly to their homes.
- d. Honoring Choices Event will take place April 10, 2018 at the Belmont Council on Aging. Presenters will discuss how to complete your own Health Care Proxy and how you can help others to do the same. The event will be a good resource for seniors.
- e. Yard Sale update. Pat Gold noted that we are very busy from now to the end of the year with the planning of the 25th Anniversary of the Senior Center with a celebration on June 15th. Burt Greenberg asked Mary Keenan how she felt about the Friends sponsoring the event and how she felt about postponing it. Mary felt the account is solvent enough that it would be ok to forgo the Yard Sale at this time. Debbie noted that we could have a sale at a later date, possibly the Fall, and Pat suggested to also hold the Holiday Boutique as we did last December. Pat

Gold made a motion to postpone the Yard Sale for 2018. Linda Moffitt and Esther Keaney seconded. The motion passed to postpone the May Yard Sale. Dorothy-Jean Brown also agreed to wait until after the 25th Anniversary to hold anything as it takes many staff and volunteer hours to run the sale.

- f. Debbie gave an update on the upcoming trips. There will be a visit to the Museum of Fine Arts using the senior shuttle for a small fee. Attendees will spend 4 hours at the museum with lunch on their own. In May there will be a trip to the Pawtucket Red Sox. In June there will be a trip to Tower Hill Botanical Gardens with lunch at the Old Mill. The July trip will be with Belmont COA again with a trip to New Hampshire taking in the play “Evita” and lunch at Hart’s Turkey Farm. There will be a cruise in August in Rhode Island viewing the Narragansett Lighthouse with lunch at the Quonset Officer’s Club. September will take seniors to New Hampshire on a chocolate and wine tour. We will be taking the Indian Princess boat cruise for the fall foliage tour in October and hopefully we will be able to add another bus as the trip sold out last year. In November there will be a repeat of the Salem Cross Inn & Bright Lights trip as that was so well received. Debbie will be working with Belmont COA to schedule a NY City trip with a 2 day overnight in December. Anne-Marie commended Debbie for all her hard work getting this schedule set up along with taking all the AARP tax appointments as well.

Anne-Marie will be working to see what funding we will receive from EOEA, hoping to add smaller trips using the senior shuttle such as “Lunch Bunch” with stops for shopping. The Christmas Tree Shop is always requested. Alice Wadden enjoyed the Peabody Essex Museum with the Christmas Tree Shop visit and said it was a great trip. Pat Gold asked how the Senior Parking Pass sales were going. Anne-Marie noted that we have had a tremendous uptick in sales as the passes were advertised in the Town’s real estate tax bill newsletter.

Update on Grants

- a. Anne-Marie reviewed the November forum held at the library that was funded by AARP and moderated by UMASS Gerontology researchers. Approximately 80 people attended, and UMASS researchers sent a report detailing the findings and comments at the forum. Anne-Marie will do a presentation on the report and conference with a “Lunch & Learn” on March 14th.
- b. Marshall Home Fund 2018 grant funding preview event was attended by Anne-Marie and Debbie. It was also attended by many Watertown departments and groups. Anne-Marie looks forward to creating partnerships within the town for this Marshall Home Fund grant cycle. Grants are due March 16.

New Business

Pat Gold requested we all introduce ourselves to our guest Watertown resident Sibylle DeCarlo who was in attendance at the meeting. Sibylle lives on Riverside Avenue and moved to Watertown 10 years ago. She would like to get more involved in Watertown.

Adjourn

Pat Gold made a motion to adjourn and Burt seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk