

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – March 8, 2017

Board Members Present: Patricia Gold, Carol Airasian, Bertha Anderson, Dorothy-Jean Brown, Burt Greenberg, Esther Keaney and Linda Moffitt

Excused Absence: Mary Keenan

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 5:35

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the February 8, 2017 meeting. Dorothy-Jean Brown made a motion to approve and Linda Moffitt seconded. Passed.

Review of Financial Statements

Anne-Marie reviewed the Financial Statements. An LCD projector was purchased and is a great addition to the Senior Center. It has already been used numerous times for various lectures. The Project Bread transfer will be reflected in the March Financial Statement as well as the transfer of a portion of the Marshall Home Fund Emergency Assistance Grant to the Marshall Home Fund Taxi line item.

Upcoming Grant Proposals

Proposals to the Marshall Home Fund are due March 15, 2017 and Anne-Marie is working on two proposals, one for Supplemental Transportation and one for a Raised Garden Bed. The School Garden Coordinator, Judy Fallows, is working with Anne-Marie on the garden proposal. Judy and volunteers would help care for the plantings. The raised garden bed would be designed to be accessible for visitors with disabilities. Pat Gold and Carol Airasian suggested asking local companies for donations for the project. The Board agreed that Anne-Marie would work on the proposals.

Planning for Senior Center Yard Sale: Saturday, May 6, 2017

Debbie Dunn announced that the Senior Center Yard Sale will take place on Saturday, May 6th in the Phillips School gymnasium. Set up will take place on Friday, May 5th from 12:00-5:00. Advertising will begin soon with flyers being posted at various locations, a notice on the Town website and on Watertown Community Access TV. It will also be advertised in the April newsletter. Donations will be accepted starting on Monday, May 1st. We will not be taking any clothing, computers or hard-cover books. Toys, jewelry, hand bags, holiday items, home goods, china, small appliances and collectables will be accepted. On the day of the sale we will need volunteer sales people. Debbie is working on the volunteer list and is attending a volunteer faire at the high school soon to recruit students for the day. We will have sign-up sheets soon. It is a wonderful event for the community. The COA Café will be open and we will be selling pizza, water, donuts and coffee. The Friends of the Council on Aging are the fundraising body for the Senior Center.

Upcoming Events

On Thursday, May 4th, a forum about housing and living and aging well in Watertown will be held at the Watertown Free Public Library from 5:30 PM – 8 PM. The event is being organized by Live Well

Watertown, Watertown Council on Aging, Marshall Home Fund, Watertown Community Foundation, Watertown Depts. of Public Health, and Community Development and Planning, Springwell, Watertown Housing Authority and MetroWest Collaborative Development.

On Saturday, May 6th, Watertown Community Foundation will be holding its Watertown Helps Out Day. It is the same day as the Senior Center Yard Sale. We have requested that volunteers from their group help with the Yard Sale.

On Sunday, May 7th, the Watertown Food Panty will be helping to support Project Bread's Walk for Hunger. Last year, the food pantry helped to staff a water station. Plans are still being discussed for this year.

New Business

Watertown Savings Bank Customer Choice Awards will be awarded on Tuesday, March 28th at the American Legion. Anne-Marie along with volunteers from the Food Pantry will accept the award.

The Food Pantry Coordinator interviews will start soon. There have been a number of applications. The Food Pantry volunteers are running the pantry smoothly in the coordinator's absence. Alfredo Bartolozzi did a wonderful job. The Food Pantry services about 200 families each year and is looking to do more outreach to service more of the community.

Debbie gave a few program updates. Ed Lewis, Watertown's Energy Manager gave a presentation about green energy which was well-received. A Baked Potato Bar Lunch is planned for March 13th which is being sponsored by Home Instead. They will be serving baked potatoes with toppings, a salad, and cupcakes for dessert. Coffee and Conversation with Angeline Kounelis will take place on Wednesday, March 15th. Thursday, March 16th the movie will be Darby O'Gill and the Little People and there will be an ice cream sundae bar. A lecture on Social Security will take place on Tuesday, March 14th with Chris Grande. We have a wreath-making class in March as well as a trip to the Boston Flower Show using the senior shuttle with lunch at the Chateau in Waltham. "Destiny" a Watertown resident's service dog will be visiting the Center on Thursday, March 23rd. A 4-week session of "recycled crafts" class will take place starting in March, and we also have a lecture planned about home weatherization.

Upcoming events in April will include: Coffee with the Police Chief, Coffee with Fire Captain Ryan Nicholson, a real estate lecture, floral arrangements for spring, the ABC's of dementia, and a lecture on diabetes.

A Volunteer Celebration will take place in April which is National Volunteer Recognition Month. In the past, the volunteers were recognized at the Senior Center Anniversary Party in June, but Anne-Marie has suggested that it would be nice to have a unique event devoted to their extraordinary service to the Senior Center. Invitations will be mailed to volunteers at the beginning of April. To encourage others to volunteer, Anne-Marie has created a volunteer brochure with opportunities here at the Center.

Dorothy-Jean made a motion to adjourn and Esther seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk