

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – May 9, 2018

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

Excused Absences: Esther Keaney

Staff Members Present: Anne-Marie Gagnon, Director of Senior Services; Debbie Dunn, Program Coordinator

Pat Gold called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM

Pat Gold announced that Burt Greenberg would like to make a few comments as he was unable to attend the April 11th meeting regarding the future of the Senior Center. Pat Gold, who has served on the Council on Aging Board since 1989 also, voiced her concerns. Anne-Marie Gagnon thanked Pat & Burt for their comments and concerns.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meetings

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the April 11, 2018 meeting. Carol Airasian made a motion to approve and Mary Keenan and Dorothy-Jean Brown seconded. Minutes approved.

Pat Gold welcomed Watertown resident John Hawes who was in attendance. John has served on the Planning Board for the past 24 years and also serves on the Commission on Disabilities.

Review of Financial Statements

Anne-Marie Gagnon, Director, reviewed the financial statements. We are on target with Building Maintenance with the additional cleaning days added for this fiscal year. Medical Transportation line items will be monitored with the funding we received. The Marshall Home Fund has been spent down. We are still waiting to hear if we will receive the grant from Project Bread. The Project Bread Walk for Hunger was this past weekend. Food Pantry Coordinator Kathy Cunningham, along with other Food Pantry volunteers attended the walk.

Grants Update

Both the Senior Center and the Food Pantry received funds from the Watertown Savings Bank Customer Choice Awards. Many Board Members and Senior Center staff attended the awards ceremony. The Marshall Home Funds Grants were received. The Supplemental Transportation Program received \$5,000.00. The Emergency Assistance Grant is \$750.00 and a grant was received for \$450.00 to reprint our senior resource guide.

Planning for the 25th Anniversary Celebration

Anne-Marie asked Mary Keenan to discuss the most recent Friends meeting. Mary stated that they are pleased with having the celebration at another venue to accommodate more guests. Debbie Dunn contacted local Watertown venues and the Hibernian Hall was chosen; there will be plenty of parking and easy access. Dorothy-Jean Brown made a motion to accept and Bertha Anderson seconded, location accepted. Anne-Marie thanked the Friends and the Board. The celebration is on June 15th from 11:00-2:00 and catered by Maria's Catering. Debbie has been working with Maria to plan a plated, sit-down meal with a choice of roast beef or baked stuffed shrimp.

Anne-Marie asked that all classes and pizza on movie day be free of charge during the anniversary week. Pat made a motion to accept; there were no objections and the motion was passed.

Bertha Anderson asked about flowers. Ernie Berardinelli will be making floral arrangements for the tables. There will be a raffle sponsored by the Friends and all attendees will receive a small gift at the door.

Carol Airasian asked if the band could perform a few songs from 1993. Debbie commented that Phil Cefalo will also add 2 more performers to the ensemble. We look forward to a festive event.

Debbie reported that the Art Class Exhibit will be open during the week of June 11-15 with a reception on Wednesday, June 13. The exhibit will move to the Watertown Public Library for July and August. Linda Moffitt commented that library visitors love the Art Show.

New Business

Anne-Marie will have her budget hearing on Saturday, May 19th. She extended an invitation to the Board to attend. She reported projected additions to the budget would include, a new Part-Time Program Services Assistant that would help with transportation scheduling and shuttle scheduling etc. The position would be 16 hours a week.

Marina Kirsanova, Case Worker would be going full-time to cover the additional time needed for home visits, MassHealth and SNAP applications as well as translation services. Marina works closely with clients as well as the Health Department, the Police Department, Wayside Multi-Services and other agencies.

In addition our shuttle bus trips will increase from 3 days every other week to 3 days every week to accommodate our residents. Trips will include shopping as well as social trips as planned.

Anne-Marie presented the Board with the Standards of Independence and Code of Conduct explaining that it is similar to the MCOA standard and the Watertown Public Library. It was reviewed by the Town Attorney as well as the Town Manager and will be discussed and reviewed by the Board at the June Meeting.

Pat thanked Mr. Hawes for attending the meeting.

Carol Airasian asked Anne-Marie if the Age Friendly Lunch and Learn postponed from April will be rescheduled. It will be rescheduled sometime after the Anniversary Party as time allows.

Anne-Marie thanked Linda Moffitt for her service on the Council on Aging Board and that we will all miss her. Linda is planning on spending more time with her family. Pat and the rest of the Board thanked her and repeated the sentiment that Linda will be missed. Linda stated that she will still be active at the Senior Center just not in this capacity.

Adjourn

Mary Keenan made a motion to adjourn and Carol Airasian seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Grassia