

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – November 8, 2017

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

Excused Absence: Pat Gold, Chair; Burt Greenberg

Staff Members Present: Anne-Marie Gagnon, Director and Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk.

Anne-Marie Gagnon called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and Carol Airasian seconded.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting, October 11, 2017

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the October 11, 2017 meeting. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve and Bertha Anderson seconded. Passed.

Review of Financial Statements

Anne-Marie reviewed the Financial Statements noting that we have a new cleaning company and will be receiving a statement soon. Medical Transportation has not changed as we have not received statements. Food & Related and Program Services are on target with services offered and providing a good balance of offerings. Senior Center Revolving account has paid for programs, conferences and parties. The Fall Foliage trip was very successful and next year we may schedule 2 buses as the trip sold out quickly. The Harvest Party was well-attended and we look forward to the Holiday Party in December.

Food Pantry Update

Gift cards were purchased from Stop and Shop for the Food Pantry with the Project Bread Grant in the amount of \$5,000. As part of the purchase we also received a 5% discount giving us an additional \$250 in cards. Kathy Cunningham, Food Pantry Coordinator is creative and doing nice work. Donations for Thanksgiving have been coming in including pies from a school, a Boy Scout Troop food drive, Girl Scout Troop food drive as well as various local company food drives. Kathy was unable to attend this meeting but will be here soon.

Update on FY2018 EOE Grant Allocation

The Governor has trimmed the budget this year. Our hope is to receive an allocation based on \$9.70 per elder (as of the 2010 census) this year. Last year we received \$10 per elder. In addition to the grant supporting salaries, last year we were able to purchase pocket-talkers, a new microphone, LCD projector as well as host a volunteer appreciation event.

Update on Medical Transportation

We are moving forward with using Title III funding for Medical Transportation from Springwell that will run from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. Local trips will continue to be funded through the Marshall Home Fund Taxi Grant with the longer distance trips provided for with Springwell funding.

Planning for December Events

Dorothy-Jean asked Anne-Marie what she would like to see moving forward. Anne-Marie would like to see additional transportation for seniors who would like to visit the Senior Center or go to hairdressing appointments or places they would need to get to vs. only medical trips. Anne-Marie expressed concern that taking on the additional transportation piece from Springwell may stretch the staff with increased phone calls and scheduling of rides. Volunteers will be called upon to help more at the front desk with collecting monies for exercise classes and other programs. This may help alleviate some traffic at the desk in the morning. Anne-Marie would like to see more educational programs as well. Dorothy-Jean suggested a lecture on the history of the Town of Watertown as well as a visit to the Armenian Museum. Alice and Carol are planning a trip to the Armenian Museum with the ESOL group. Anne-Marie made note that we did show the movie "The Promise" and 28 people attended. The movie affected people emotionally with many saying that was their parents/family story. Alice Wadden is so happy that we have Marina Kirsonava, our case worker, stating that she is a big asset to the community. She speaks both Armenian and Russian.

Holiday Party and Friends' Boutique Overview

The Harvest Party went very well with new registration for seating implemented which will be continued for future parties. Mary Keenan mentioned that Debbie has a list of previous donors that the Friends will reach out to for door prizes for the Holiday Party. Dorothy-Jean, Mary and Bertha have offered to sell the tickets for the event. The Holiday Boutique will be December 4th with crafts for sale from senior center crafting classes led by Ernie Berardinelli, Tina Rose and Dawn Scaltreto, and items from our knitting group and holiday décor donations.

New Business

As our fiscal year starts July 1st we are projecting for 2019 as well as the rest of 2018. Carol Airasian is happy for the partnership with Artemis Yoga. The instructor is fabulous and is doing an excellent job. They will continue with the mat yoga. A seated chair yoga has been added and will start November 9. The Strength & Balance class is well-received and will continue in November. School Garden Coordinator Judy Fallows will be here in late November to plant flower bulbs with the preschoolers in the garden between the buildings.

A lecture and book review by author Gwen Romagnoli on *Learning to be a Widow* will be held in December. The Salem Cross Inn trip will be on 12/1 and the end of year Chinese luncheon will be on 12/29. Our seniors feel that the Senior Center is the active place to age in the community.

Carol Airasian made a motion to adjourn and Mary Keenan seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk