

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – October 11, 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.

Mary Keenan called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting, September 13, 2017

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the September 13, 2017 meeting. Linda Moffitt made a motion to approve and Esther Keaney and Dorothy-Jean Brown seconded. Passed.

Review of Financial Statements

Anne-Marie reviewed the Financial Statements. The Revolving account showed purchases for the Garden Project which was modified from a raised bed on the side to decorative buckets on the deck and a stone raised bed in the front of the deck. Student volunteers have been helping with the project. There is approximately \$45.00 left from the Marshall Fund grant after the purchases of compost, stone, loam and hoses. The My Senior Center yearly upgrade and dues for the Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA) Annual Fall Conference for Anne-Marie, Debbie Dunn and Marina Kirsanova were spent from the Revolving Fund. There are funds still available in the Marshall Home Fund Emergency Assistance Grant. Marina has been working with clients paying down the Emergency Assistance account by helping with utility bills. Carol Airasian made a motion to accept the financial statements and Dorothy-Jean Brown seconded. Financial Statements passed.

Discussion on Medical Transportation

Anne-Marie reported that with the closing of Busy Bee Transportation, the Title III Federal Funds which had been supporting Busy Bee and allocated by Springwell, will now be granted to the Council on Aging and used for transportation to medical appointments in Boston. The Federal grant year is October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. This funding will help us to expand transportation offerings to those who need rides to Boston medical centers. The Council on Aging staff at the senior center will be scheduling these rides for consumers. The funding from Springwell is \$8,750.00. The contract is under review and it will be on a cost-reimbursement basis. McCue's Taxi in Watertown is the vendor for this service per its contract with Springwell. The senior center and Springwell will be doing outreach to let seniors know that rides will be available here and not at Springwell or Busy Bee. It will be more work in the office but we will be streamlining directly with McCue's. Due to Federal guidelines, we will mail a letter to riders with a request for a suggested donation of \$3.00 back to the senior center. Discussion ensued among Board members that this extra scheduling could be burdensome to the senior center staff. Anne-Marie expressed her enthusiasm for the funding and the Boston service, as it is important for the senior center to meet needs. In addition to medical rides, she is looking into ways to expand transportation offerings to meet the demand of those wanting to come to the senior center to socialize

and decrease isolation, or go to other important appointments such as hairdresser, barber, or other appointments seniors may have. Anne-Marie expressed interest in having some of our seniors who have used the MBTA for years do a lecture on using the T and we will find out about holding a Charlie Card day here at the senior center. In addition, we still have the Marshall Home Fund Taxi Grant which is used primarily for local medical appointments and miscellaneous trips such as pharmacy visits.

Planning for December Events

a. Holiday Party

The Holiday Party will be Friday, December 15th this year. The Harvest Party seating arrangements have been challenging. Many people want to sit with friends and the table selling was initially great. We will see how it works in the future and we are trying to accommodate everyone.

b. Craft Boutique

The Craft Boutique will be held on Monday, December 4th. Ernie Berardinelli will host a wreath making class and crafters can make an additional wreath for the boutique. Dawn Scaltreto will host an ornament making class with additional ornaments going to the boutique as well as Tina Rose who will make laminated book marks that will also be available. Dorothy-Jean has cleaned and packaged jewelry left over from the yard sale that will be for the boutique as well. There will also be hand-knitted items from the knitters group at the boutique. The Holiday Craft Boutique will be open for sales on Monday, December 4 from 10-3. Special thanks to the Friends of the COA for their assistance.

New Business

Carol Airasian noticed that many seniors are operating their vehicles with handicapped placards visible. The placard should only be used when the vehicle is parked, as the placards are very large and can impede sight lines while driving. Anne-Marie will post a notice at the center.

Prescription Drug Take Back day will be on October 28th from 10:00-2:00 at the Police Station.

Anne-Marie thanked everyone for their participation with the Faire on the Square. It was a great day.

A discussion was had on adding another free-standing raised garden bed next to the deck. All board members were in agreement that discussions about modifications to the Garden Project will be tabled until the Spring of 2018. Dorothy-Jean made a motion to table the project and Linda seconded.

Carol Airasian made a motion to adjourn and Alice Wadden seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk