

Minutes of Watertown Council on Aging Board Meeting – October 10, 2018

Board Members Present: Pat Gold, Carol Airasian, Bertha Anderson, Dorothy-Jean Brown, Burt Greenberg, Esther Keaney, Janet McCullough & Arlene Smith

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 4:05 PM.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the September 12, 2018 meeting. Pat Gold made a motion to approve and Dorothy-Jean Brown seconded; Passed.

Review of Financial Statements

Anne-Marie Gagnon reviewed the financial statements. We are a quarter of the way through the fiscal year. Changes were made to trip payments which will now go directly to Fox Tours; this will help to limit spending on the Senior Center Revolving account. With the holiday season upon us the Food Pantry will see more clients and more financial donations are typically seen this time of year as well. Pat Gold asked about the increase in clients. Anne-Marie explained that the Food Pantry Coordinator, Kathy Cunningham has done more outreach and that we picked up some clients from Sacred Heart/St. Patrick's Food Pantry since they moved across town. Arlene commented on the addition of the Food Pantry signage. The Board applauded Anne-Marie for obtaining the signage.

The Food Pantry Grant from the Watertown Community Foundation for \$1600 will be spent down with the purchase of additional equipment that includes 2 new freezers and folding tables.

Program Services Update

a. Planning for Harvest Party and Holiday Party

Debbie Dunn reported the Harvest Party on October 19th is sold out. The Mellowtones will perform and each guest will receive a gift of a yearly planner. Costumes are optional. Bertha Anderson has volunteered to create the floral arrangements for the tables.

The Holiday Party will be held on December 7th at the Hibernian Hall to accommodate more guests than the Phillips School Gym can hold. We anticipate 140 guests. Lasagna & meatballs will be served for dinner; tickets will be \$16.00. We will rent chairs from AA Rental to dress up the tables as part of the room decorations.

The Mellowtones will perform at the Senior Center on December 14th for a special Holiday concert. Arlene Smith is working with Debbie to bring some children to the Center with an ornament workshop on Thursday, December 6th. Seniors and children will enjoy Music by Ruth and take away an ornament. December will also feature a lecture by Dick Flavin from the Boston Red Sox; a boxwood tree workshop by Ernie Bernardinelli, a lecture on Coping with the Holidays after a Loss; a Healthy Eating Lecture with the Eat Well Watertown Team; and a lecture about the Galapagos Islands.

b. **Staffing and Volunteers**

- a) Presently, there are 5 seniors participating in the Property Tax Work Off Program, 2 here at the Senior Center and 3 others at Town Hall.
- b) Our Program Services Assistant, Marjorie Wayne has been hired and will start this Friday. She is retired from the banking world and is a volunteer with the Belmont Senior Center as well. Margie will be here Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Elders Affairs Annual Formula Grant Update

Anne-Marie reported that the Formula Grant for Elder Affairs will be submitted this Friday. The allocation has been increased to \$12 per elder, or \$78,852. This is an increase over last year. Funds will be used to support salaries, program services, Senior Center upgrades, volunteer recognition and staff training. Anne-Marie encouraged Board members to thank Governor Baker for his support of seniors and the increase to the Formula Grant.

Report from the Friends of the Watertown Council on Aging

Debbie Dunn reported in Mary Keenan's absence. The Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, November 1st at the Senior Center with entertainment by magician Ryan Lally. The minutes from the Friends meeting on September 13, 2018 was submitted.

Round Robin

Anne-Marie added Round Robin this month to give the Board members an opportunity to share. Burt shared that Captain Ryan Nicholson was helpful with information on fire safety equipment. Burt also informed Chief Quinn and the Town Manager that Ryan does a great job. Carol Airasian reported that she is taking a class through Watertown Adult Ed on ESOL to help with lesson plans and curriculum. Arlene would like to see some trips using the shuttle bus to include shorter trips with possibility of visiting Boston, Fenway Park, the Seaport district, North End etc. Dorothy-Jean suggested a group bus trip via the MBTA. Esther reported that the knitting group has expanded from once a month to once a week. The Watertown Family Network is no longer doing baskets for new parents but the knitting group will continue to knit and crochet for the boutique and make donations to the Jimmy Fund. Arlene also said that she and her husband Ray initiated the basket program and would consider continuing. Janet McCullough reported that she is attending a tea at Springwell to discuss volunteer opportunities including transportation. Anne-Marie reminded the Board that Springwell is still looking for a liason. Anne-Marie reported that the Faire on the Square was quite an event and was happy with the volunteer participation, as it gave she and Rae an opportunity to network with other departments and groups.

Adjourn

Pat Gold made a motion to adjourn and Esther Keaney seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk