

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – October 16, 2019

Board Members Present: Pat Gold, Carol Airasian, Dorothy-Jean Brown, Esther Keaney, Mary Keenan, Tom Lewis, Janet McCullough, Araxie Poladian and Arlene Smith

Staff Members Present: Anne-Marie Gagnon, Director, Marina Kirsanova, Program Coordinator and Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk

Pat Gold called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM

Anne-Marie introduced new Board Members, Araxie Poladian and Tom Lewis. Anne-Marie thanked them and we look forward to working with them both.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the September 11, 2019 meeting. Minutes amended to show Dorothy-Jean Brown absent as well as Arlene Smith's recommendation to the Parent-Child Home Program for the ESOL group. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve and Dorothy-Jean Brown seconded. Passed as amended.

Review of Financial Statements

Anne-Marie Gagnon reviewed the financial statements. The Department of Public Buildings is now managing the Building Maintenance line item as well as the Electricity and Gas line items. Thanks to the Department of Public Buildings, the new carpeting has been installed, exterior lighting has been improved with two motion detection spotlights, and we have a new book shelf in the library and refillable-bottle water fountain.

Esther Keaney asked about the Medical Transportation line item which Anne-Marie explained we spend down the Marshall Home Fund Taxi Grant first.

Pat Gold had a question regarding the Emergency Assistance line item which Marina explained typically sees more activity in the winter months as requests for help with fuel will increase.

Anne-Marie commended Food Pantry Coordinator, Kathy Cunningham and her work at outsourcing for the pantry collecting from the Farmer's Market and obtaining food from the Boston Area Gleaners. The Watertown Tab is advertising the October town food drive for both the Watertown Food Pantry and the Watertown Catholic Collaborative Food Pantry.

Bylaws Review Part 2

Section 7) Removal was tabled from the last meeting to this month. After a group discussion, it was decided for a change. Pat Gold made a motion to suggest change and Dorothy-Jean Brown seconded for a change to be made.

Article III Section 1)

Executive Committee remove "Senior" and leave (60 years of age or older)

Section 3) Chairperson

The Chairperson will be elected each June from the membership of the Council on Aging prior to July" 1st.

Section 5) Senior Member

The 60+ Member is elected by the Council on Aging and will function as a voting member of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI – Committees

Section 1) Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will be composed of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and a 60+ Member.

ARTICLE VIII – Friends Group

After group discussing it was decided to table any changes until the Friends Bylaws are reviewed.

Programs & Services Updates

Anne-Marie welcomed Marina Kirsanova in her new position of Program Coordinator. Marina thanked everyone for the opportunity. She is still seeing clients in her Case Worker capacity by appointment until a replacement is hired. Jenna Willis at Wayside will be seeing any new clients and helping with fuel assistance applications.

Anne-Marie reviewed Margie and Marina's reports with the group. See attached.

Report from the Friends of the Watertown Council on Aging

Mary Keenan reviewed the Friends report noting that the Harvest Party will be Friday, October 18th and that they have received a large number of gift cards as well as a number of baskets for door prizes and raffles.

The Annual Friends meeting will be held on November 1st with 22 RSVPs at this time.

The Holiday Bazaar will be held on November 4th & 5th, hopefully capturing some voters on the 5th. The Friends have received multiple donation of items already.

Round Robin

Councilor Palomba thanked the group for all their hard work and wanted to let all know that he is very supportive of the Senior Center and if they have any concerns to please contact him.

Carolyn Pruiksmas, Resident Engagement Director at The Residence was in attendance and is looking forward to working with Marina on getting more of their residents to visit the Senior Center. Pat Gold gave an update on the Flu Clinic sponsored by the Health Department. 50 shots were given out on the 1st day and 58 shots were given out the 2nd day at the Senior Center, which Pat says is on the low side with patients visiting local pharmacies and their own doctors. A third flu clinic is planned for November.

Carol asked why the senior flu shot was not given at the Senior Center and Pat explained that doesn't last as long. Tom Lewis asked for some clarification which Anne-Marie agreed to follow up on with the Health Department.

Adjourn

Pat Gold made a motion to adjourn and Tom Lewis seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk