

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – September 12, 2018

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

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

Excused Absence: Debbie Dunn, Program Coordinator

Introduction of New Board Members – Janet McCullough and Arlene Smith

Pat Gold called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. Pat Gold introduced new Board members Janet McCullough, also a school crossing guard who was born and raised in Watertown; Janet is pleased to serve and happy for the opportunity, as well as Arlene Smith, past coordinator of the Watertown Family Network. Anne-Marie and the Board welcomed them both.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the July 11, 2018 meeting. Dorothy-Jean Brown made a motion to approve and Mary Keenan seconded; Passed.

Review of Financial Statements

Anne-Marie Gagnon reviewed the financial statements for both July and August noting that we did receive small increases in the FY 2019 budget and transfers to Building Maintenance and Emergency Assistance line items.

Medical Transportation Program

Anne-Marie reported that McCue's Taxi is in the process of closing due to operating costs after 75 years in business. Anne-Marie is looking into other options including other companies or our own Senior Shuttle. Springwell does have a medical escort service but requires a 2-week notice. Dorothy-Jean asked about the option of purchasing a smaller bus. Bertha suggested Uber or Lyft accounts but as Arlene mentioned seniors may be more comfortable with a taxi company vs. a ride program. The Senior Center may not be able to contract with a ride program as there could be liability issues as Burt mentioned as well.

Program Services Update

a. Status of Directory of Senior Services (resource guide)

Marina has made a tremendous effort to edit and update the directory aka "Little Red Book" which will hopefully go to print soon. The Marshall Home Fund has contributed some funds through a grant toward the printing.

b. Fall Programming & Holiday Bazaar

The October newsletter has gone to print. Capt. Nicholson from the Fire Department with a grant from the Marshall Home Fund is doing a 3-part series on fire and life safety for seniors. The fire department has brought an engine truck, ambulance and ladder truck to the Senior Center as part of the program. Metro West Collaborative Development will be offering a 3-part

series on affordable housing. Judy Fallows, Watertown Public Schools Garden Coordinator did a presentation today about the school garden projects with funding provided by the Marshall Home Fund. Open Enrollment for Medicare will begin October 15th and run through December 7th and appointments are filling up. SHINE Counselor Dan Goldberg will present on enrollment options in October.

Dr. Regan Patrick Ph. D from McLean Hospital Geriatric Psychiatry Division will be doing a presentation on Alzheimer's Dementia. Flowers with Ernie will be held in September and October. Flu shots from the Health Department will be given at the Senior Center and library. Estate Planning with Dale Tamburro lectures will take place in September, October & November. A Wine & Chocolate tour is planned for September. A trip to Lake Webster will be in October and a trip to Salem Cross Inn is planned for November. The Annual Harvest Party will be on October 19th with tickets on sale the 1st week of October.

The Holiday Boutique will take place on November 8th & 9th with donations of saleable gift items being taken starting the 1st week of October; Esther Keaney said the knitting group have been collecting items for the sale too.

Arlene Smith suggested that we have a get together with the Watertown Families group on a Thursday in October complete with costumes; she will discuss dates and ideas with Debbie.

Pat Gold would like to schedule a presentation with someone from Perkins School for the Blind on how to deal with vision loss and low vision and aging.

c. Planning for the Faire on the Square – Saturday, September 22, 2018

Anne-Marie ordered key chains as a give-a-way for the Faire on the Square. Board members as well as staff will be at the Senior Center booth with information for visitors to the faire.

d. Staffing and Volunteers

Anne-Marie updated the Board on the recruitment status for the part-time Program Services Assistant position and hopes we will have someone here by the next meeting. Anne-Marie is still working on recruiting for the Property Tax Work-Off Program. She has candidates for the Town Hall, Senior Center and Veterans Office. Pat Gold reported a need for a volunteer to serve on the Board of Springwell which meets monthly and if anyone is interested to touch base with Anne-Marie. This person would be a liaison to the Council on Aging Board and Springwell.

Report from the Friends of the Watertown Council on Aging

The Friends will meet 9/11/2018 and hope to have a date for their annual meeting.

Adjourn

Carol Airasian made a motion to adjourn and Mary Keenan seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk