

MINUTES
COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, February 15, 2023

PRESENT:

Janice Fletcher, Sheila Gagnon, Maria Maggio, Fred Monaco, Maureen Saunders, Bill Scott and Carol Hamilton-Director

GUESTS: Suzanne Almendinger Booster Liaison

ABSENT: Nancy Currie, Barbara VanHouten.

QUORUM:

A quorum was present.

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 3:09 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Janice moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2023. Maureen seconded the motion. All present members voted in favor. Motion passed.

CAR PORT: Carol invited Michael Maresco to attend today's Board meeting to discuss the status of the car port project. Michael said he would be happy to attend, but his understanding was that the Car Port Project is no longer slated to be installed at the Senior Center. Fred Russell, Facilities manager was copied on this email. Instead they will install the Car Ports around the area of the Dog Park.

LIAISON REPORTS:

COA Boosters

Bill attended this morning's meeting where more than 60 people attended along with 2 guests including someone from the Hingham Senior Center who wished to learn more about how our Boosters operate. Suzanne presented the latest fundraising effort for a "Pot of Gold" fundraiser beginning soon for prizes to be awarded in March including a \$100 bill and scratch tickets. Boosters have voted to provide funds for much needed fitness equipment including weights, blocks, straps and racks to accommodate several exercise classes dispersed throughout the Center because of the high demand and the increasing attendance. Boosters also amended a vote taken in December for \$6000 for upholstery and instead approved \$11,000 which also included the remaining supply of fabric to have on hand for future use. Suzanne responded to Ann Gillespie and constituents of Pickleball to clarify that all requests for funding must go through the Director of the Council on Aging and that the Boosters support their fundraising efforts but cannot join the cause as a group.

Old Colony Elder Services – Maureen reported that they met in January and discussed:

- Federal Public Health Emergency has been extended until April 11, 2023.
- Mass Health Redetermination will begin in late spring/summer.
- Food stamp stipends due to Covid will expire and beginning in April recipients will receive only one normal monthly payment.
- A website for Personal and Home Health Aide State Training has been launched in order to recruit more workers into the network

Old Colony Planning Council – Carol will attend a Zoom meeting tomorrow to discuss the ombudsman program. Bill may also attend along with anyone else who is able to.

COMMITTEES:

AGE FRIENDLY/DEMENTIA FRIENDLY – Maureen reported on the meeting held on January 24 when guest, Greg Guimond, Town Planner, was able to address many of Age Friendly domains: housing, transportation, and trails. He is also a Library Trustee.

Domains Discussed:

- Housing - we could work with the Town to support increasing density in the Affordable Village.
- Transportation – He explained plans for GATRA expansion and access to Greenbush.
- Trails – The Sealund project also involves trail coordination. Benches are planned.
- Master Plan – When we develop our Age and Dementia Friendly plan, he will add this to the Town's Master Plan.
- Scituate Plan – Maria developed a tracker for us to use moving forward using this as a base, and we added housing and transportation ideas.

Next meeting on February 22, 2023 will cover Open Space and Public Safety. We will invite Ned Bangs to the next meeting. We will also contact Caitlyn Coyle of UMass for further insight. We also hope to spur a sidewalk project for Webster Street as the right of way has already been established.

BUDGET – Carol outlined the specifics in her Director's Report in items 1-4.

EVALUATION – At the last recent meeting Maria and the Committee reviewed the Nutrition Survey to be issued via Survey Monkey and on paper. The SHINE and Lifelong Learning surveys were very positive. 2023 priorities include issues involving nutrition and caregiver support.

GOVERNANCE – Bill polled the Board to see if the current practice of allowing Board Members 30 days to review policy changes before voting on them during the meetings. Those in attendance believed that this has proven effective and we should continue. Fred moved to vote on all 4 policies at once today and Sheila seconded. Therefore, the Library Policy, Board Application Policy, Board Member Procedure, and Gift Account Policies were approved by unanimous vote.

MARKETING, OUTREACH AND TECHNOLOGY – Maria stated there is no report.

SELF-ASSESSMENT - Carol reported that there is nothing new from MCOA or NCOA. We could apply to "self-assess" to the NCOA. Board Members hope to follow up on the extensive study done in the past to secure accreditation, despite the fact that there will be no actual accreditation by outside authorities. This was a valuable standard to follow and can be a guide to maintain quality in the future. Marcy Amore who previously served on the Board can be a valuable resource. There will be a future meeting. All Committees should prepare a Mission Statement for 2023 that could enhance our ability to successfully evaluate our progress. Later the whole Board will address the COA Mission Statement and Core Values.

STRATEGIC PLANNING – Maureen stated there is no report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- 1) The Treasurer has distributed the budget sheets and we were successful in getting a \$16,000 increase in our expense line item. The salaries line item also increased to cover cost of living and contractual increases.
- 2) We also submitted a request to the Town Administrator for some changes in our personnel. We requested that the bus driver's grade go from a Grade 5 to a Grade 6, we also asked for the Social Day Manager, Social Day Assistant and Assistant Food Service Manager Positions to be added to the Personnel Bylaws.

- 3) I am trying to get updated status on advertising for Assistant Food Service Manager from HR.
- 4) Massachusetts Councils on Aging have introduced their Fiscal 2024 state budget requests to Governor Healy. They are requesting \$14 per hour from \$12 per hour along with money for Service Incentive Grants which will amount to \$2,163,947 to Councils across the state. They are also advocating for a line item for Geriatric Mental Health for \$3.5 million. This year's GMH budget is \$2.5 million.
- 5) Page Construction is working with us to repair cracks in the ceiling and walls. Plasterers have been out to fix and painters followed up on Feb. 6th. Stairwell railing on exterior wall of second floor came off, repaired by Page.
- 6) Gas smell with upstairs boiler and propane receptacle outside. Facilities called in both cases and new part being ordered for boiler room to mitigate gas smell and Propane Company came out to inspect propane receptacle.
- 7) Senior Center was open for a warming center on Saturday, February 4, 2022 8-5 due to extreme cold.
- 8) We got a full price on new lighting for upper parking lot and lower park area from the wiring company and electrician. Total cost \$5029. We do not have enough money in SC Building budget to cover this.
- 9) It has come to our attention that the entry way doors are sometimes closing too soon not giving patrons enough time to get through them, in some instances. I have been working with facilities and the door company to look for a solution. The door company wrote up a proposal that will help with that and sensors will be installed. Facilities will cover the cost on this.
- 10) Freeze up with one of the sprinklers in Tech Room, major damage, insurance, clean- up company Service-Master and Construction Company all working to fix the damage. Carpet needs to be replaced along with computers and various furnishings.
- 11) The Plymouth County Sheriff's Department is continuing to paint areas in the original building while some of those same areas are being covered by insurance.
- 12) Mike Maresco has offered to donate a shed from the Fairgrounds to the Senior Center. We will have to find a location. One of the members wondered if it would require a cement pad underneath.
- 13) Economic Development Session will take place tonight at the Senior Center from 6:30 – 8:30. We will also have a local apartment complex association from Castle Green meet at the same time.
- 14) We have gotten approval to increase the # of newsletters that we get by 100. We have been running out of newsletters.
- 15) We are working on our March newsletter and will submit it to the printer soon. We have set up a date for our spring Lifelong Learning on Tuesday, April 18, 2022.
- 16) Electrical Aggregation Session on Zoom held on the 7th and was well attended with about 40 people here at the Senior Center.
- 17) We have a healthy heart session from BID on Thursday the 16th, and an author talk on February 17th.
- 18) The Boosters approved the allocation for streaming movies which we will utilize with the DVD program. Boosters also approved Fitness equipment weights, blocks, straps, and racks for \$3778, \$75 for wheels and \$500 blocks and straps. Also re-voted \$11,000 for upholstery. Need new budget going forward for our needs to help Boosters plan.

VOTES TAKEN:

Janice moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2023. Sheila seconded. All present members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Fred moved to vote on all 4 policies before the Board today. Sheila seconded. All members voted in favor to accept: Library, Board Application, Board Member Procedure, and Gift Account policies.

NEXT MEETING: March 15, 2023 @ 3:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Fletcher, Secretary and Carol Hamilton, Director