Scituate Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting

Scituate Senior Center, 333 First Parish Road

November 10, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

**In attendance**: Present: Susan Drevitch Kelly, Vice-Chair; Marie Fricker, Board member; Susan Pope, Board member; Laurie Brady, Board member; Dee Dwyer, Board member; Pat Carleton, Board member; and Janice Lindblom, Board member. Not present: Leslie James, Linda Hayes, and JD Miller.

The meeting began with acceptance (with a minor revision) of the minutes from the October 13, 2022, Board meeting.

**Staff guest attende**e: Jill Johnston reported on her role as the COA Administrative Assistant. Jill’s primary role is to support the staff; she is the backup for the Activities and Volunteer Coordinator (Jess), sometimes for the Transportation Coordinator (Lillian), as well as backup for phone personnel. Being with the Senior Center for 18 years, she truly is the “Jill of all trades” as she prepares invoices, records payment, helps with check-ins at the kiosk, and is a familiar go-to person for answers to questions.

During Jill’s summary, these items were discussed by the Board members:

* Marie mentioned that the phone service has improved greatly in that she is connected to a person right away when she calls in. Jill said that more seniors are using My Active Center.
* The possibility of room-darkening shades at the end of the multi-purpose room to avoid the glare during movies or presentations. Laurie took some pictures on Friday.
* Location of the check-in kiosk- some members do not see it as they come in and therefore do not sign in or if the line is long, they just don’t sign in. Can there be another kiosk, or can it be moved to another location? Also, there was discussion about the manual scanner--- is it always used?

**From the Director:**

Although Linda was sick and could not attend the meeting, she provided an extensive report including the following:

* The new art exhibit - Michael Sorrentino retrospective

The slide show presentation on The Artist and his Art (Michael Sorrentino) on November 8 was very successful and is available on the SCTV YouTube channel. There will be an open house and sale of prints on Saturday, November 19 (9:30 to 11:30); coffee and pastry will be available.

* The 5-minute taping of the week’s events/happenings at the Senior Center for SCTV (10/31) will continue every week as SCTV time allows. Susan Kelly mentioned that other towns also do this--- it is very informative for patrons.
* Social Day Program - Planning on Jan 9 as the official start date- including marketing/outreach, training for volunteers, official application documentation, and preliminary meetings or tours with the candidates.
  + Select Board approved use of funds to start the program.
  + Program should become self-supporting with the $40 daily fee for 8 participants (surrounding communities also charge $40).

Discussion on this program included that a donation from Marie Gillis helped to fund the program. The timeframe for the day program is approximately 4 hours. Lunch is included. Once the program is running, it will be evaluated for possible expansion. Lillian (Transportation) is also running an Alzheimer’s caretakers support group.

* Building Use
  + A second flu clinic was held on October 27 by the Health Department.
  + November 11 Veterans Day Luncheon with the American Legion; lunch provided by the Voyager; dessert provided by the Food Pantry; music by WSU Bluegrass Band.
  + FOSS events: upcoming November 26 fundraiser (6:00- 10:00) evening with the Brown Brothers; music ending by 9:45 to ensure that the parking lot is clear by 10:30 in accordance with the Building Use Policy.
  + Meetings:
    - Evening meetings – SS Irish Heritage Trail and Scituate West Cork Committee, monthly; Waterways Commission, monthly; Combined sister city meeting in December; Parent community group re: schools.
    - Agreed to hold the French Sister City committee’s film festival showings beginning in December through March on 2 to 3 Tuesdays per month; ending by 9:00 PM.
    - Etrusco holding volunteer luncheon in the Minot Dining Room on Friday, December 9.
    - Possible film showing in November for the Historical Society for Lighthouse documentary (not confirmed).
* Professional development – MCOA Conference in October Jess and Erin attended on Wednesday and Linda attended on Thursday.
* FOSS support
  + Tree in the corner of the patio next to Bocce Court is in memory of Bette Johnson
  + Entertainment series in memory of Jim Young
    - Matt York on 11/29 at 1:00 to 2:30 – The Highway Men, Stories and Songs
    - December and January – February TBD
* Received Formula Grant funds for FY23 with new census numbers; from 4, 334 ($52,008) to 5,543 @$12/elder = $66, 516
* Budget Approval Schedule
  + Met with Town Administrator, no significant adjustments
  + Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday, November 1
  + Select Board meeting on Tuesday, November 22
* Tax Work-off positions: 18 in total; 11 for COA for 2022 calendar year
  + Kitchen/café: 3
  + Parking lot monitor/valet
  + Cardio room monitor/orientation
  + Program facilitators: 2
  + Front desk/Reception: 2
  + Newsletter: 1

Discussion by board: Individuals 62 years of age or older volunteer for an approved program up to 100 hours per year and are eligible for property tax rebate of $1250 (maximum). Applications are online; Linda also has them.

* Knitters Group will hold a week-long Christmas fair of their handmade goods on December 5- 9.

**TRANSPORTATION:** See Lillian’s report for numbers

* + Drivers completed the Alzheimer’s Association Dementia Drivers’ Program.
  + Active volunteers completed the “I am a dementia friend” training.
  + Added a new van volunteer in October; now a total of 6 active volunteers.
  + Lillian is working with GATRA on becoming a training site on a Saturday for the driver’s wheelchair securement training.

**ACTIVITIES/VOLUNTTEERS:** See Jess’ report for numbers - overall numbers are steady

* + A notable increase in information sharing activities: Grief Support Group, Mental Health Matters, and SHINE- Medicare appointments for open enrollment
  + Added an afternoon yoga class with Rena on Mondays and Wednesdays--- attendance solid
  + Added beginning line dancing on Tuesday mornings – popular
  + Bob Jackman’s morning class continues to increase in number
  + Filled the Friday afternoon front desk spot with 2 volunteers who will alternate weeks
  + Added one more server and a backup for Tuesday lunches
  + Transportation volunteers are in demand as requests for van escorts increase
  + What’s coming up
    - Special Thanksgiving Day luncheon (75 people) on 11/17; early leftovers on 11/22
    - Entertainment with Matt York on 11/29
    - New Year’s festivities with entertainment on 12/30
    - Community collaboration includes caroling with the Girl Scouts, Scituate Senior Knitting Group fair, and Storybook Cover Book Store- holiday shopping pop-up
    - Art presentations are popular; 75 signed up for Art for your Mind with Jill Sanford; 30+ people attended the Art and the Artist talk by Lucille Sorrentino about her husband Michael’s art
    - Emergency planning session with Erin LaMonte and firefighters on 12/6
    - Men’s breakfasts have been popular- next up is Fire Chief John Murphy who will update the winter emergency and safety information
    - The Wellness offerings, especially Reflexology and Manicures and Pedicures with Joddie are booked for the next month with waiting lists. Would like to add more days/options, if possible.

**OUTREACH SERVICES:**

* + Continuing to complete application with residents for fuel assistance available Oct 1 through April 30 (gas, electric, and water/sewer)
  + Storm preparedness: SFD presentation on 12/6, and SHA presentation to follow; Strom prep swag bags to be distributed to SHA residents and other Scituate residents in need
  + SNAP partnership – partner with DTA to allow greater IT support while helping seniors complete the SNAP applications; funds will be granted to those enrolled (reported minimum of $4, 000 per year)
* Initiatives
  + Planning to invite outreach sources, for example, At Home Hearing Healthcare and Mass DTA, to visit the center and present services to the patrons
  + SHS students – snow removal
  + Working with Lt. Bortolotto to create informational flyer for storm preparation; SANDS/SCC will support this initiative to have resources available
  + Continuing to add resources to the Resources List; contacting prospects and sharing ideas about being part of the SSC Resource List; possibility of senior discounts
  + Hoarding task force – bimonthly meeting conducted to establish policies, procedures, and training to identify and assist the seniors who struggle with hoarding, working with SPD, SFD, and Board of Health
  + SHA resource folders- Information to be given to new SHA residents to educate them on the resources that might be available for them
  + South Shore Resource Guide is a collaborative effort to collect resources that are specific to the South Shore. Working with Erica Souris, Jenny Gerbis, and other COA Outreach coordinators.
* Room for Growth – SNAP Partnership initiative to more effectively complete applications; desire for a Low Vision Support Group at the center; create more programs that occur throughout the year to get ahead of the needs before they arise.

**FOSS:** Liaison Elaine Schembari:

Tea luncheon in October was successful. Matt York on 11/29 at 1:00 to 2:30 – The Highway Men; November 26 fundraiser (6:00- 10:00) evening with the Brown Brothers

Next Board meeting is Thursday, December 8 at 5:30.  
Submitted by: Deirdra Dwyer