**Council on Aging Board Meeting – Thursday, March 12, 2020**

Call to order - 5:30 pm (meeting was one hour earlier than usual to allow members to attend other town meetings)

Attendance - Board Members: JD Miller (JD), Chair, Janice Desmond (Vice Co-Chair), Leslie James, Susan Kelley, Maud Meulstee.

In addition, Linda, Hayes (LH), Senior Center Director; Joan Powers (liaison to South Shore Elder Services); Elaine Schembari (liaison to FOSS) were present.

Absent Board Members: Janice Lindblom, Lucille Sorrentino, Henry Yeh, Caitlin Coyle. Absent Liaison to BOS: Karen Canfield.

The minutes for February 2020 were reviewed and approved.

**Director’s report was given**:

*General/Office:*

* Continuing work on new website: scituatecoa.org is pending.
* Assisting FOSS/BAC with fundraising plans for naming of interior rooms/spaces at new Senior Center. No hard numbers yet. Trying to define values. This was discussed with the Library folks who recently did a similar process for their new Library. There is interest in endowments to fund programs.
* Placed two tax work-off candidates, a few more pending. Total 17 of 23 currently placed. Hourly rate was raised to $12.75 for total tax reduction of $1,275 for 100 hours.

*Programs update:*

* Veterans Advisory Council Breakfast at Senior Center was a success.
* Tai Chi weekly class: demonstration planned for 3.31.2020. New class to start April/May for 4-week increments.
* New strength training class with Sue R started 3.6.2020.
* New Zumba class instructor to begin in May 2020.
* Aging Mastery program due to start 3.19.2020.
* Pizza Party/Game night planned for 3.23.2020 with Interact Club
* Summer pickleball will be held at Recreation gymnasium.
* BSU social work intern will be with us through April.

*Senior Center Project and Ground Breaking Ceremony:*

* JD & LH attended weekly meetings with Delphi Construction, architects, OPM, Recreation, COA, Facilities. Lots of moving parts, moving quickly. All is going on schedule.
* Project sign (Senior Center and Recreation Community Project) was installed 3.16.2020.
* Officially registered the new Senior Center as 333 First Parish Road, creating a separate address from Recreation at 327 First Parish Road.
* Work on foundations will begin the end of this week and next week.
* Groundbreaking ceremony planned for 3.18.2020.

*Age-Friendly Update:*

* Postcard surveys still available, Survey Monkey survey posted. Second appearance for survey on Farmer’s Market planned for 3.14.2020.
* Committee to work on Grant Proposal and Action Plan.
* Focus group date for April pending.

*Events and Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Thornton:*

* Lots of events took place in February, the continuing programs were well attended. Weather was mild, so no issues with cancellations. Valentine’s Day provided lots of fun and well attended events.
* New Volunteer joined for Panera Bread donations. Some of our volunteers spend the winter in Florida, so that was big help. Still need another. Also have high school student volunteering. We could really use more volunteers! This is a wonderful and rewarding opportunity!

*Transportation Kathy Clarkson:*

Between 2.1.2020 and 2.29.2020: 420 total rides for 67 Seniors. Not so many cancellations as the weather was good in February. South Shore Community Action Council unexpectedly increased the rates. There is no progress toward resolution or decreased prices yet. Still, thanks to COA drivers and volunteers we were able to maintain current levels of transportation services.

Medical appointments were continued (including out of town-the Boston area).

*Outreach Jenny Gerbix:*

Jenny had 101 service interactions (home visit, office visit or phone call) with 66 Seniors in a variety of categories including Fuel Assistance, Medicare/Social Security, Food and Fuel Assistance, Caregiving Resource/Home Care etc. She continues to have off site meetings (monthly at the four Housing Authorities) and met with VSO Donald Knapp.

**Corona virus updates**:

Waiting for further instructions from governor, town and Board of Health on programming.

Flyer on virus prevention was edited and handed out to Seniors, posted.

Seniors were encouraged to have 4 weeks supplies and 8 weeks of medications on hand. Encouraged to have pneumonia shots up to date.

Less people attended events this week, some of the drivers were hesitant.

We are postponing all programs/activities for remainder of March or indefinitely.

Matter of Balance was due to start 3.9.2020 but postponed.

Joint Efforts classes were suspended by NVNA.

Preparations for St. Patrick’s Day Parade were done but the Parade got cancelled by Town.

Bob Jackman suggested to tape his history classes. Other activities might be eligible for electronic opportunities/cable TV for ex. exercise classes.

We have been getting calls from volunteers, men’s groups, churches to help Seniors.

Sands is mobilized.

**Liaison Reports**:

1. **South Shore Elder Services, Joan Powers:**

* 3.12.2020 large financial report was completed. SSES moved across to South Shore Plaza.
* Currently 4000 members in Senior Care/Wellness with 4 workers.
* Norwell Housing Authority news.
* SSES is still holding ongoing training for staff.
* Community dinner planned for Jan 26 was cancelled.
* Meals on Wheels are now catered by the new company, this is working well.
* Joan emphasized the importance of Meals on Wheels, not just to supply meals but to check on the elderly, to make sure they have not fallen or are otherwise in need of help.

1. **FOSS and FOSS Capital Committee, Elaine Schembari:**

* After the Christmas Fair, meetings have restarted with new ideas for fundraising including naming rights to rooms in the new Senior Center. This worked very well for the Library and they have been in contact regarding procedure, amounts etc.
* The Gala planned for April at the Rivers Club in Cohasset was postponed.
* Gordon Price (head of FOSS Capital Committee) will bring a mock check for $15,000 to the goundbreaking of the new Senior Center. This money was raised by FOSS through the Christmas Fair and sale of calendars.

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| **Old/New Business:**  **Action Subcommittees:**  These were discussed at last meeting. JD presented the members for this**.**  **Building/planning**: work with architect, Campus Committee & Director re: layout, furnishings, naming opportunities, etc               Leslie J; JD; Lucille  **Long term Advisory**: look at issues such as budget/staffing for new building; work with BOS liaison; placements for tax-write-off programs; grant opportunities; Comcast contract; LiveWell Scituate              Leslie J; JD  **Events/advocacy/marketing**: plan COA events; coordinate with FOSS on collaborative opportunities; build-up email database; help with Constant Contact?  Lucille; Susan K.  **Programming**: research & analyze Scituate demographics and COA program offerings; needs & age groups; recommendations; speakers/guests;  Caitlin; ***Maud***; Susan K.  The meeting was adjourned at 7.10 PM. |
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