

MINUTES

Scituate Council on Aging Board of Director's Meeting

Thursday, April 13, 2017

Present: Chairman John Miller, Vice-Chairman Gordon Price, Board Members: Dale Balog, Leslie James, Janice Lindblom, Janice Desmond, Lucille Sorrentino, Helen Jablonski, Audrey Reidy, COA Social Worker Laura Minier; Liaisons: FOSS Bette Johnson; SCOD Elaine Schembari; Guest Speaker SPD Chief Mike Stewart.

Not Present: Selectman Liaison Marty O'Toole; SSES Liaison Joan Powers

Meeting called to order at 5:33pm.

Chief Stewart: Police Liaison assigned to COA; PSC: working out the kinks, nice meeting space (up to 60 people), video wall, overhead projector with tv screens; sally port; booking/interview room have panic buttons, would like to put the same in town hall, patrol related downstairs, admin/detectives upstairs; joint police/fire dispatch; 2 full-time stations in one building; control of lights/garages in other stations in town; plenty of space for staff in locker rooms; end of May it will open for tours, obstacle course for the K-9 unit, helipad, training, Scituate FACTS, drug use is more fentanyl than heroin, up to 14 doses of Narcan can be given with Fentanyl v. Heroin is 2-3 needed to revive. Triage room is available for residents to come into and be evaluated.

March Minutes were accepted by the Board.

Director's Report:

- Activities/Events: Grant application submitted to the SEF with the goal to purchase 6 iPads for the Senior Center and to be given to a select group of seniors from the Aging Mastery Program. iPads would be used on-site and the seniors would need to commit to training and support scheduled with the Interact Club. Ongoing support would be provided and MS students could also be involved.
- Thank you note was sent to the Mariner for publication acknowledging the River Club and the Cultural Council for their help/donations for the Evening of Irish Music on March 10. As of 4/13 it has not been printed.
- The Senior Center trip to the flower show was a success. There were 33 attendees. Admission was \$16 and the charter bus was \$10 with the remainder, approximately \$500, paid by GATRA.
- Dinner/Game night with the Interact club was on 3/27. There were 8 seniors plus staff and students, who provided dinner. R-G Advance Planning Cafe Talk on 3/29 was attended by 8 seniors; 15 seniors attended Opening Day at the senior center on 4/3.

- Class/Program changes for the summer: Cardio and Joint Efforts will be on hiatus in the summer as well as Badminton; Monday Yoga has moved to the Maritime Center for May/June; then the Community Building in July. Other classes held at St. Luke's will move to the Community Building in June with some schedule changes. Pickle ball is becoming more popular and times may change for the summer. There will be meetings with Recreation to discuss available day/times at the Jenkins gym in the summer.
- Office Updates: Linda met with Joel Bargman, from the architect firm doing the feasibility study on March 16 to discuss programs and service needs and help prioritize features of a new building i.e. classroom, recreation, fitness, lobby, library, offices etc. This information will help to inform the report/proposal to the Town of Scituate to determine the best site for a senior center building. The study is due to the BOS in late June. There will be an opportunity for public input in the future.
- Transportation: New PT driver was hired and is pending required testing. One driver had to be let go. There are 4 part-time drivers, 2 regular and 2 variable and then bus drivers that are available in the summer. There are more requirements for drivers to pass.
- Broadcast calls will now have caller i.d. so the number seen will be recognized as the COA.
- BOH Kitchen Certification and requirements were completed. Caterers need to register with the BOH.
- Patrick O'Connor's office hours at the Senior Center are the 3rd Thursday at 10:30am. It was asked who he is. Patrick is the State Senator who took over for Bob Hedlund.
- Three episodes of Seniorities have been completed for SCTV.
- Linda has placed 3 more participants for the Senior tax work-off.
- The intern from BSU will finish on April 26.
- FY2018 Budget: Jill's hours were increased to 35hrs to become FT and through the Formula Grant. Budget was level-funded and there is \$2,000 for a phone upgrade.
- Miscellaneous: On March 23 the Focus Group was held with Joan Meschino, State Rep, her staff and COA professionals from Scituate, Hull, Cohasset and Hingham. Linda attended with Laura Minier and JD Miller. Topics discussed were property tax burdens, affordable housing, caregiver needs, transportation and senior center program participation and funding. The Senior Center is planning to hold some classes/events at the SHCB in June. Use of this building may increase programming.
- Upcoming events: Herb Crehan will present a Cafe Talk on May 17 at 10:30am on "Celebrating the Impossible Dream 1967 Red Sox: The Birth of Red Sox Nation.
- Linda presented the Transportation, Outreach and Activities reports. Activities report reflects the equivalent of \$2000/month in labor from receptionist/front desk.

- Social Service report presented by Laura Minier: originally hired following many storms a few years back and the former TA and Fire Chief recognized that there were needs not being met in town. Anyone that is not covered by a school social worker is covered by Laura. There is a lot of collaboration in town by different agencies. The numbers have gone down since last year in the 55 and over but that may be due to Jenny Gerbis taking over some difficult cases. Last quarter there were 25 clients on Laura's caseload. The types of issues are the same i.e. **elders-at-risk, homelessness or at risk at losing housing, mental health, help with food, legal assistance and advocacy.** The Scituate Hoarding Response Team (SHRT) is addressing hoarding issues. Hoarding is a mental health condition as defined in the DSM-V and affects 2-5% of the population. There were virtually no resources in the South Shore for those affected by hoarding. The SHRT is mostly municipal employees. Event held recently, "Helping the Helpers: Supportive Approaches to Decluttering" is free and open to the public. Two new clutter-reduction skills groups and facilitated by a clinician. A third group will be started that will be co-facilitated by a hoarder as well as a clinician. **Emergency Preparedness: "storm wellness call-list" is a list of seniors who may be of concern during a storm.** Robo-call followed up by actual call. FVP: training held in January and another will be held in April. The first match was made. Lucille asked how hoarders are brought to the attention to the SHRT. Some of the members in the groups participate in order to avoid eviction. It may be part of a court order to seek out help and one cannot be evicted if they are in a support group, or that the Health Dept. has a concern and refers to the SHRT. The SANDS/CROSS Resource book will be updated soon. It will be found in town departments and the COA. SFD Smoke Installation Program is able to offer additional fire safety inspections and the SCOA will continue to work with the SFD for joint visits. The monthly caregiver support group continues and is the 3rd Wednesday from 12-1pm at St. Mary's.
- Budget Review: Budget presented by Linda via handout. Utility cost has risen and is a yearly struggle. The Formula Grant is based on the 2010 Census and is \$10 per elder in town. Gordon pointed out that compared to \$10,000-\$12,000 per student, the Senior Center spends about \$45/per senior. Dale asked about the line-items for gifts/donations. Linda explained that it is not part of the budget process and therefore not included in the budget information provided but she will distribute that information at the next meeting. The revolving account is money taken in for programs but that money goes back to the instructors. The Lifelong Learning, Bob Jackman class fee is \$20/pp. He receives most of the money, but after a set number of participants he kindly lets the COA keep the remainder. Money does come in to the transportation account in the form of donations as well as the set fee of 1.25 per local ride, or \$1 if 10-ride pass is purchased. Out of town rides are still supported by the GATRA budget (or MAP) with no fee schedule attached. Donations are requested but not required.
- Goals and Objectives (Handout): Submitted to the TA. COA submits related information for town report publication.

- Liaison Updates:
 - SCOD:
 - Fire Chief will be updating forms on functional needs and accessibility for residents at home. COD has come up with a more specific form that will hopefully be online.
 - "File of Life". It comes from the Plymouth DA. A card with medical information that can be kept on the fridge with emergency information. Gordon suggested handing them out at the upcoming Town Meeting.
 - Pilot program for Jenkins School after hours transportation has been approved through GATRA who provides a HP not sure if it has been used yet. \$1.75/ride. Money is coming from the operating budget in the COD. If it is utilized by the town then the town will be asked for more support
 - FOSS:
 - 4/22-4/23 FOSS members will be at the Transfer Station for solicitation and handing out literature on FOSS and what it is trying to accomplish and to make more people aware of the organization.
 - 6/16 is the Golf Tournament; FOSS will have a table at Heritage Days
- Miscellaneous: Gordon was at a library fundraiser the night before and the subject of robo-calls was discussed. There is a website called nomore.com and one can sign up and your phone will only ring once and stop ringing. It won't stop robo-calls.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Janice Lindblom
Secretary