Scituate Council on Aging

Board of Directors Meeting

November 15, 2016

Scituate Senior Center

Present: Chairman John Miller; Board Members: Lucille Sorrentino, Leslie James , Helen Jablonski, Janice Lindblom, Dale Balog; COA Director Linda Hayes; Liaisons: SSES Joan Powers, SCOD Elaine Shembari, FOSS Bette Johnson

Not Present: Vice-Chairman Gordon Price; Board Members Audrey Reidy, Janice Desmond; BOS Liaison Marty O’Toole.

Meeting called to order at 4:30pm by John Miller.

Meeting minutes from October were approved by the Board.

Directors Report presented by Linda Hayes:

* + The Aging Mastery Program continued through December 1st with average of 17 participants each week. Participants can accumulate points based on activity but do not appear to be taking advantage of this aspect of the program. Participants are attending weekly and are enjoying taking part in the program.
  + Linda attended the MCOA conference in Falmouth on 10/26-10/27. Lots of information available especially on memory cafe which Linda would like to implement at the Scituate COA. Other topics discussed at the conference were COAs collaborating with other groups i.e. library, schools vets, clergy etc. to build the community; income security among older adults and economic support needed like the tax work-off program available in town.
  + The Interact Club ran Tech Time at the Senior Center. More publication of this program is needed for higher participation rates. Tech Time will be held every month starting in January and will conclude in June.
  + The newsletter is looking for sponsors.
  + GATRA: The 14-person van may be returned for a smaller van due to it not being used as often as originally planned. There are fewer drivers that are able to operate the larger van because of the physical standards.
  + Tax work-off: Hours were submitted to the tax collector for reduction in tax bill. 100hrs=$1,000 off the tax bill. There could be more spots available and it will be included in the January 2017 newsletter.
  + Friendly Visitor Program: Requirements for volunteers are being finalized
  + Miscellaneous: SCTV cable shows for Senior Center/COA is being planned. Ideas for names and proposals for shows/programming i.e. transpiration, social services, health insurance, housing, etc. Lisa Thornton will be taking over primary production of the newsletter beginning in the Jan/Feb issue. In the newsletter will be inclement weather information.
  + Upcoming: Gingerbread House Contest being held on December 4th. Voting can take place 12/2-12/4. The Scituate Harbor Business Association voted that all money raised will be donated to FOSS. Linda will be one of the judges. Decorating will be on 12/1. Volunteers are needed.
  + MCOA is launching a 3-year project that will work with local COAs to develop skills to broaden community participation and inclusion at Senior Centers. MCOA will offer trainings, resources and videos to support local efforts to reach underserved populations. The first day-long training, “Communication Across Cultural Boundaries”, is for COA teams and is through a partnership between the Multicultural Coalition on Aging, UMass/Boston, VNA Care Network Foundation & Affiliates and MCOA. EOEA is funding the initiative. The first training will be 11/30 at the Plymouth COA from 10:00-3:00. Linda and JD are attending and opportunity for another board member, if interested.
  + Social Services, Outreach, Transportation and Activities Reports submitted and reviewed by Linda.

Liaison Reports:

* + SSES: Audit of SSES went well; SSES is looking for volunteers for MOW. Governor Baker signed a spending bill that added $3.78 million for homecare which should end the wait list that was started on 9/1/16; On 11/16 the award ceremony was held at the Lantana; On 11/27 the supper at St. Lukes will be held. There will be no supper in December.
  + SCOD: The Commission has been making progress with the other town committees and departments. The COD should be looking at recreation land and town buildings re: accessibility; Jeff Dougan resigned; Elaine inquired about John McLaughlin attending the December COA meeting to discuss GATRA.
  + FOSS: There are now 370 members of FOSS; The second annual trivia was successful; On 12/3 the FOSS will be having a Craft Fair at St. Mary’s Hall from 9-2. Tickets will be on sale for the hand knitted quilt at the fair; The COA purchased a 4th pickle ball net. Pickle ball is held Mondays and Wednesdays at Jenkins from 4pm-6pm. Leslie inquired about the bottle return at the dump as a fundraiser.

Leslie James reported that there is a new Executive Director at the Scituate Animal Shelter and the “Hooper Fund” is available to assist seniors to keep their pets.

Presentation: Jim Bunnell and Anna Dunbar from the **Talking Information Center (TIC)** in Marshfield:

* + Only 50% of the SCOA Board members have heard of the TIC. Typically 80% have not heard.
  + TIC was started in 1977 by Ron Bersani on WATD.
  + Programs are recorded and rebroadcasted at WATD.
  + 3 full-time and 3 part-time employees. 200 volunteer readers.
  + 400 affiliates in the state of Massachusetts.
  + 30,000-40,000 listeners.
  + The MCD budget has decreased and the TIC money goes to vocational training.
  + EOEA overseas the TIC
  + Radio TIC is available online and as podcasts as well as on the radio 24hours a day. RTIC has 20-35 channels.
  + Receivers are given to customers free of charge.
  + 70% of programs are recorded and 30% are live.
  + COA Board member Leslie James is a volunteer and reads the Christian Science Monitor, once a week for about an hour.