

Council on Aging Board Meeting – Thursday, March 14, 2019

Call to order – 5:37pm

Attendance: Board Members: JD Miller, Chair, Gordon Price, Vice-Chair, Henry Yeh, Caitlin Coyle, Leslie James, Helen Jablonski, Janice Lindblom, Lucille Sorrentino and Janice Desmond, Linda Hayes, Senior Center Director, Kathy Clarkeson, Transportation Coordinator, COA, Elaine Shembari, Liaison to the FOSS and Joan Powers, Liaison to South Shore Elder Services were in attendance.

The minutes for the February were reviewed and the following corrections were made:

- Joel's (Architect for the new Senior Center building) last name was misspelled.
- Caitlin Coyle was NOT present for the final vote, need to clarify
- The Interact Dinner is on 3/24

Pending these changes, the minutes were approved.

Linda's Report:

- There are now 30 slots available for the property tax work off program. Currently have 27 residents placed.
 - These volunteers are currently helping the senior center create a volunteer guide and a brochure about SC programs/activities (informational).
- Recent programs: JD and Leslie recently attended the legislative breakfast. Dave Stevens from MCOA and both representatives O'Connor and Kearney were present.
 - Scituate (and all towns) receive \$12/senior from the State (called the "Formula Grant"). MCOA advocates for the increase of this amount and/or the maintenance of it.
 - COAs have a \$17 million dollar line item in the state budget
 - MCOAs have small grant opportunities available
- Scituate Education Foundation grant is due at the end of the month. Linda is thinking about something related to music.
 - Caitlin suggested an intergenerational program as a "Live Well" Scituate program.
- Linda needs to schedule another meeting of the Live Well Scituate committee. There are other recent grant activities coming down the line. Ideas include an art contest related to aging and Caitlin also mentioned the installation of a walking path across the Lawson Green to connect the future senior/community campus and the library/new senior housing.
 - Need to find out who oversees that park—we know it has a veteran's memorial.
- Souper Tuesday event was poorly attended
 - Might have been because the newsletter was delivered late. It accidentally went to Springfield instead.
- Other notes:
 - Movie events have been really well attended—current films.
- Linda made a postcard to pass out at the St. Patrick's Day parade
- Intergenerational dinner is coming up and CP's Pizza will bring their food truck. Will also pass out cards at this event.
- World Series Trophy is coming on 4/3---suggested to pass out cards at this event too. Will attract residents that don't typically come to things.

- Transportation: there is more out of town medical rides. Currently this is contracted (out of the GATRA budget) to South Shore Community Action Council. Linda is considering stopping that practice.
 - Also considering cancelling transportation when schools are closed. Currently it is not—but that is confusing to people. Thinking it is safe/simple to just cancel. This would be a policy change.
 - Volunteer drivers fill in the gaps—there are very few of these volunteers (they are CORI checked and have good driver records).
 - Gordon asked if there would be transportation available to the Town Meeting(S)
 - Linda said –yes there always is and this year would be no different.
- Outreach:
 - Job seekers group is going strong—it is time consuming for the COA staff that attend.
- Joan's report:
 - Adult protective services are going through changes
 - Staff is moving towards online training of staff
 - Community dinner is on 3/24
- Elaine's report:
 - Next fundraiser is the Spaghetti Dinner on 4/6. Tickets are basically sold out.
 - Golf outing date is 6.14.19
 - Need golfers!
 - Planning will ramp up after the special town meeting and vote on May 13 and May 18
- John Denehey gave BOS report
 - Question about who writes the warrant: the TA writes it and the BOS review and put it through.
 - He gave update on some of the issues facing the public at Town Meeting (e.g., water, sewage in north Scituate, and recreation fields).
- Update on Public Information Sessions re: new senior center campus project
 - BOS were in attendance at all 3
 - Linda will share the slides
 - Question: if the rec. department does not use all 1.2 million that is estimated for their updates—can that money be used for the SC project. Answer—not really. Money has to be spent on what is was written for/voted on. Would need to be reviewed/reallocated by BOS.
- Gordon made a motion to have the Board endorse the recreation department's project re: fields. It is understood that they will do the same for the Senior Center project.
 - Vote was unanimous
 - JD will send letter of support to the rec. department
- Janice L. asked about informational material distributed at Town Meeting
 - Members of the external campaign committee can be outside of the building asking for votes.
 - COA members and Linda can be inside with an image of the building and “information” about the project.
- Gordon Price submitted a letter of resignation to Linda Hayes.
 - He is resigning so that he can be free to raise funds for the senior center/community campus without conflict of interest.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.