

COA Meeting Notes

June 14, 2023

Earl called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Peg led us in the Pledge of Allegiance since it was Flag Day. Members present: Earl Pearlman, Peg Nogueira, Diane Howell, Dona Son, Phil Cieply, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Carol Kotros was absent. Also present: Betsy Edsall, Friends' Vice president, and Alejna Brugos, COA/Select Board liaison.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. During the discussion of the Treasurer's report, Amy mentioned that our budget will increase next year due to the alarm system maintenance fee going up and the Tri-Valley one dollar per senior going up due to population increase.

Director's Report: medical equipment requests have increased considerably, so Amy is having these redirected to Janet rather than the Admin Assistant; the leaks in the van were repaired successfully; Amy was informed that our Staples account is being discontinued, but she is working on getting it back because we need it; Amy has received several calls to borrow our medical scooter and she wants to know if we approve buying a new one for \$200-\$250 which can be paid for under the Community Assistance Program containing donated funds for this type of service, we all agreed; the bluebird nest box which was funded by the Friends has been overtaken by sparrows which will destroy bluebird eggs or kill the young ones, so it has been taken down; CPR training certificates are ready for distribution and Janet will take a make-up CPR class; Amy said bulk mailing at the P.O. will no longer be available in January; even though the Fire Dept no longer gives free smoke detectors, they offer a battery changing program and also a lock box program so they do not have to break down the door in case of emergency; returning this fall will be a photography class, Fun & Function, Powerful Tools, Qigong which will include Sound Healing one Wed per month this summer and evening yoga will also return.

Tri-Valley Report: Dona Son does not have a report because she was unable to attend their meeting due to being involved in a senior center project on that date.

Friends' Report: Betsy reported that they met on June 12; the \$500 scholarship was awarded to Lilly Rezek who is going into the field of nursing; the townwide yard sale was a tremendous success, Peg suggested having tarps available next year due to a surprise heavy downpour in the afternoon, Linda Chace won the 50/50 raffle; on Sept 23 the Friends will have a Fall Frenzie Fund Raiser and on Oct 7 they will have a booth at the fair at Daniels Farm; they hope to have another fund raiser at Dairy Queen this fall; a summer beach picnic is scheduled at the town beach on July 12, rainedate July 26; the trip committee has 4 trips planned and many have signed up; the Lunch Bunch has several dates planned; finally, 3 officers are resigning their

positions after serving for considerable time so the Friends are looking for volunteers for President, Vice President and Secretary; their next meeting is Sept 12.

Old Business

Food Pantry Update—Ann reported that all is going well; deliveries are down due to caregivers and clients coming in on the 1st Friday of the month; Amy's Facebook contact continues to advertise our food needs and the response is great; donations continue to come in to the P.O. and the senior center drop box in the gazebo.

S.C. Expansion Update—Phil said our next major step is a formal building committee to be approved by the Select Board; we suggested names of folks we could contact who might be interested in serving on the committee.

Volunteer Appreciation Update—went off very well; the magician was really entertaining; food was great; Amy was pleased we all got a chance to sit down since we are volunteers ourselves.

Yard Sale Update—see Friends' Report above.

COA Training June 12 Bellingham S.C.—very enlightening and well conducted; we will discuss the possibility of having non-voting members at a future meeting.

Summer Events—Senior Cook-out July 19—grills are cleaned, youth volunteer will clean the gazebo; July 30 Senior Tea, Peg suggested having two committees, one for prep and set up and the other for serving and clean up, Dona asked if 85 y/o seniors who come to our center from other towns can be included, Amy said she would be ok with that and none of us objected; Aug 23 Ice Cream Social, the entertainment is a singer suggested by Betsy Edsall.

Homelessness Coalition Bill—Amy looked into this further; MCOA is looking for supporting sponsors for this bill which would provide funding for seniors waiting to get into senior housing; we are a small S.C. so we will pass on this.

New Business

Staff Vacations—Melissa is out this week and next and Janet will be out last week of June.

Social Media/Marketing—Phil suggested looking for someone to be in charge of advertising and promoting what we do; we discussed possibly hiring a professional to get us started which could be covered by a grant.

Volunteer Appreciation 2024 & Cultural Council Grant Application—grant applications are due Oct 15, 2023; Amy is looking for ideas for a theme so she can apply for an entertainer under the grant; April is volunteer month so we decided on April 17, 2024.

UMass Boston Inclusion Survey—Amy received a request asking senior centers to do a survey on diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility; Amy reached out to Select Board Chair, Mike Meroli, to help with the survey as it was very involved; he provided enough feedback so she was able to complete the survey; she received another email referring to a final survey, on which we will be letting the Select Board take the lead.

Open Forum

Alejna wants to get the word out that the Tax Aid Committee has a vacancy.

Earl adjourned at 11:50am so we could go into Executive Session. Our next meeting is on July 12, 2023,

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis, Secretary

Executive Session

We received 3 nominations for Senior of the Year. We reviewed them and voted by secret ballot. The nomination of a husband and wife was chosen by majority vote. Amy will contact them to find out if they will accept.