

Council on Aging Board of Directors

January 20, 2022

Present: Director Jim Leyden, Assistant Director Lindsay Gill, Chair Rose Morace, Secretary Ellie Tyson, Saul Finestone, Sandra MacFadyen, Marge Morgan, Julia Moulton, Maryann Squier, Judy Yaffe and new members Marie Angelides, Pete Landon (briefly on zoom), and Stephan Platzer

Absent: Phil Hallahan, George Shea, Eleanor Stolar, Jan Komaiszko

Guest: Linda Bisi, Jim Moulton, Patricia Self, Theresa Yesu.

- I. **Welcome:** Meeting called to order at 9:30am. Rose welcomed guests and gave praise to the board for helping to get the new center up and running.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The January 20th minutes were approved.
- III. **Reports:**
 - a. **Select Board:** Tom Lachiusa was unable to attend.
 - b. **State Representative:** We received notes from Robin who was unavailable to attend the meeting. A suggestion to have a list of “handy” volunteers to help seniors with basic tasks around their homes. Jim noted in the past there was such a list, but it no longer exists. Home modification was brought up, but this account is used for large jobs and requires 3 quotes from different professional builders before monies can be used. Please refer to Robin’s notes.
 - c. **Directors:** Jim directed us to the summary of sales in December on the last page. Judy noted how well we are doing in the program department. Jim in response to the fitness center fee stated that other fitness centers in senior facilities, charge as well. Our charge is \$10.00 a month. As time goes on it will require an evening staff which will have to be compensated. He also stated that everything in the building belongs to the center; we don’t rent anything. Saul brought up some calls he had regarding complaints the callers had. Judy: the whole concept is helpful and it takes people a while to get used to the open concept. Jim stated the reception area is very friendly and helpful to all who enter the building.
 - d. **Treasurers:** Please refer to Treasurer’s report. A question regarding fund balances not being listed in the report. Jim stated the money was spent in the new building for which it was intended.
 - e. **FOLOCA:** Nothing to report.
- IV. **New Business:**
 - a. **Welcome new Council on Aging Board members:** Rose welcomed Marie Angelides to the board. Marie had been our liaison from the select board for many years. Saul introduced Stephan Platzen to the board and gave us a little background information on Stephan. He loves Longmeadow and is looking forward to working on the board.

- b. **Massachusetts Councils on Aging Board Development Workshop:** Kathy Bowler wasn't feeling well and will schedule another time.
 - c. **COVID-19 Update:** Longmeadow has gone down in COVID numbers. The center at this time has a grab and go option for lunches. This will continue through February. The town nurse can give booster shots. Appointments can be made either Tuesday or Thursday.
 - d. **COA FY2023 Budget:** Jim will be filing the budget for fiscal year 2023. We will be hiring more staff and the LACCF will be paying for these positions for 2 years. We have many great volunteers as well as great staff.
- V. **Old Business:**
- a. **Adult Center staff update:** Interviews are in process for 2 staff, 12 hours each for the program committee. We would like someone for later in the evening.
 - b. **Operational Hours:** In approximately 3 weeks there will be a time change. Monday-Friday 8am-8pm. Saturday 9am-1pm.
 - c. **Programming Update:** Listed in Department report. Lindsay noted Spanish class has started up again as well as a care giver group session.
 - d. **Outreach/Volunteer update:** Torrie is our temporary outreach coordinator and has done an amazing job filling in for Julie Pearce. Torrie is a real asset to us at this time. Saul asked if she could become permanent. Jim said it is a budgetary question and would have to check with town manager. He would like to have a full time outreach coordinator and a full time volunteer in the future. Also, when we reopen the dining room and the café the COA board will be able to have coffee before the meeting in the dining room.
 - e. **Food Pantry Update:** The food pantry is receiving a lot of donations from the community. We do need back-up people to help with the pantry; the volunteers working there are doing a great job.
- VI. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Tyson