



Council on Aging

April 11, 2013 – **Minutes**
181 Hillman Street, Bldg. 9

****View Agenda****

Board Members Present:

Bruce Duarte, Chair
Patricia Costa, Vice-Chair
Virginia Morrison, Secretary
Esperanza Alejandro-Berube
Inez Mello
Jane Stott
Joan Swain

Excused:

Mary Sullivan
James Sylvia
Stanley Ociesca

Also Present:

Debra Lee, COA Director
Cynthia Wallquist, Director of Community Services

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by the Chairman, Bruce Duarte

Secretary's Report

Motion by Ms. Mello to accept minutes of March 14, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Swain. Motion carried.

Old Business

None

Chairperson's Report – Bruce Duarte, Sr.

Boston Trips are going well. One gentleman who had five trips scheduled for a series of appointments has canceled. Unfortunately, this was done too late so we were unable to cancel the driver for the day, so we sent the substitute driver home.

Computers at Hazelwood. We have had an offer from the Vocational High School to supply all the computer equipment that the computer lab will need to get up and running. This is a class project and the class and instructor will supply the person-power to install and set up all the equipment. Mr. Duarte will continue to be in touch with the Housing Authority (Steven Beauregard) on their offer to supply computer needs for us as well.

On Call Drivers. Three out of four drivers are all trained. We are not moving forward with any additional advertising for the Boston medical van as we are currently advertising in the Senior Scope. If SRTA is going to take this over, the COA will no longer provide this van service.

Lunches at Hazelwood and Downtown are in the planning phase. Coastline will provide a plated lunch option to the Downtown (New Bedford Hotel) when the service begins in order to be compliance with the codes on the kitchen. Hazelwood prefers a soup and sandwich choice to the hot meal and that will begin shortly as well. Buttonwood and Brooklawn are doing very well with lunches.

Brooklawn Center and Flooding at the Park – Director Lee drafted a letter for the Board's approval that will go to the Mayor. The Chair signed that letter and it will be sent to the mayor.

Security at City Buildings – The alarm list is all set.

Friends of the Elderly. The president of the “Friends” group is Nelson Ostiguy and the Vice President is Pam Ilsely. Director Lee has tried to reach them, but received no reply. The Chair would like to see them come to the next board meeting, as well as Linda Morad. The Director will contact Linda Morad to see if she is available.

There is a question regarding the By-laws of the Friends of the Elderly. All board members will receive a copy of the by-laws. Alejandro-Berube brought up getting younger people involved, in order to bring this group to life. She will look into this through the faculty at UMASS Dartmouth, as they have a specialized Gerontology program where they have had an internship program there. Professor Mulcare’s name came up in the discussion as a possible resource, if he has not yet retired.

There was some discussion regarding the Rochester Friends of the Elderly. Ms. Lee will do some investigating to find out what works there and why.

Volunteer of the Month is a work in progress. Ms. Lee has been in touch with the Personnel Office regarding this. Angela Natho there thinks it’s a wonderful idea, but is looking for the selection criteria. Ms. Lee will continue to work out the details.

There was a motion to accept the Chairperson Mr. Duarte’s report by Pat Costa, seconded by Joan Swain. Motion carried 7-0.

Director’s Report - Debra Lee

Ms. Lee talked about the Volunteer luncheon and reported that it is in the process of being planned for June.

Ms. Lee also reported that we are waiting to hear back from Community Development on the grant for this year, and should have some word by the end of April.

The Director reported that John Perry has been in touch with her and toured the space next door to the Council on Aging as possible office space. He asked what the ideas were and stated that he would get back to her on what he was able to find out in terms of funding and fixing up the space.

Ms. Lee reported that there is an Awards Ceremony at the Buttonwood Park Educational Center on May 2nd from 2- 4. Two Board members will be honored that day: Ms. Morrison for five years and Mr. Ociesa for ten. She asked how many Board members would like to attend to support these folks, and four members responded to the request.

Vandalism has calmed down at the Downtown (New Bedford Hotel) Senior Center.

Ms. Lee attended the Legislative Breakfast at the Rochester Council on Aging. It was well attended and that there were several representatives there who vowed to fight for funding for next year.

Ms. Lee reported that she finished the SHINE course and has passed the exam. She also reported that there is an “on call” driver that is interested in taking the course and will be interviewed next week for that by the Regional Director. He is expected to begin the course next week.

There will be a **Senior Support Group** starting up late May at the Buttonwood Center.

Dr. Crowe, a podiatrist, was contacted by Ms. Lee about setting up podiatry clinics in our Senior Centers. He is very much interested.

There was a motion to accept Ms. Lee's report made by Ms. Costa and seconded by Ms. Stott. Motion carried 7-0.

Community Services Director's Report

Cynthia Wallquist distributed each staff member's Preliminary FY14 Work Plan for their review. She reported that there was a budget meeting during which she was informed that the Mayor's Office requested budgets to keep each Senior Center open until 4 PM. Mr. Duarte stated that the Hotel can only be used until 3 due to the terms of their lease. If the other Centers remain open, it will mean an increase in salaries in order to accommodate this change in hours. The Board was very much opposed to this change and the Chair and Ms. Lee will contact the Mayor's office to convey their thinking on this subject. The Chair would like the Mayor's office to hold off on this decision until they have come and met with the Board.

The Senior Centers' calendars through June are being updated; Ms. Wallquist will send out an update on the activities at the centers.

There was a motion to accept Ms. Wallquist's report made by Ms. Costa and seconded by Jane Stot. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Duarte stated that these meetings have been running very well and that the Board is well informed. He extended congratulations to the Director on passing the SHINE exam. There was some brief discussion on the number of years that people have served, and how the numbers are derived.

There was a motion to adjourn made by Ms. Stott and seconded by Ms. Swain

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM

Respectfully submitted

Bruce Duarte