



Board Meeting Minutes of 5/30/2023 (in person)

Respectfully Submitted by Lori Howe

Voting Members Attending:

Pete Hoagland, Sally Tipton, Gerri Hawn, Jim Campbell, Ken Adams, Carole Marple, Pam Sampson, Lori Howe

Voting Members Absent: 0

Non-Voting Associate Members Attending: 0

Non-Voting Associate Members Absent: Pat Gray

Staff Attending: Sue Kelliher, Kristina Gallant, Melinda Morle

Community Members Attending: 0

Voting Members Absent: 0

Quorum? Yes

Call to Order by Chair Pete Hoagland at 9:33 a.m.

Pete Hoagland opened and asked for a motion on the April 25, 2023 Board minutes. Sally moved to accept them as written, Jim seconded. There being no discussion, the minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer Report by Gerri Hawn (see attached reports)

Gerri stated that we are now 90% through the fiscal year and have spent 80% of our budget. A couple of line items are over budget which will be offset by other lines that will be underspent. Gerri noted a correction to the amount of the Assistant Director's salary paid by the Formula Grant which should be \$633.36.

Revenue from the political class came in at \$1,230 which is 100% profit except for \$150 in gift cards that were given to the speaker.

There were no questions. Pete thanked Gerri for her report.

Director's Report – by Sue Kelliher (see attached reports).

Sue stated that she had revised the data portion of her report to reflect the change Jim had requested. The result in this month's report of those receiving services from COA for the first time is that 11 people were "New to COA". Numbers for Intergenerational programs are not reflected in Sue's COA data as these are enrolled through the Library. In terms of classes, Watercolor held in May was sold out and there had also been a waitlist. Rug Making is coming in June. There will be a Bird Walk tomorrow morning at Broadmoor.

Under speaking presentations, Jack Craig finished his series on May 19, there was a good crowd for Michael Tougias, Dave Smailie is coming back on May 31st to discuss the debt ceiling, and Ted Reinstein from Chronicle is coming to the Library on Thursday, June 29, at 6:30pm to discuss *Before Brooklyn*.

Lori had referred a technology specialist named “Kevin” who did an iPad/iPhone class on messaging/texting, reminders, notes, and calendar. Had great turnout; everyone loved him; he was very enthusiastic and had a lot of patience with this non-technical group. We’ll definitely have him back for another tech class.

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be on June 8 at the Elks in Natick, with a catered lunch and special entertainment. Sue has invited 75 and so far 19 have responded. Ken asked if the invitee list includes the wood splitters and wood deliverers; Sue asked Ken to send her this list and she’ll extend invitations.

Stephen Tsai, the newest member of the Select Board, will be coming on June 12 at 10am. Dan Sichel of Advisory, who works at Wellesley College, will be coming in today at 1:00 to help identify professors for future offerings.

Melinda reported that she continues to maintain a regular connection with the Fire Department (FD) to keep each other informed. The FD expressed concern that some people in town go to the Police Department and others rather than contacting them directly. To increase awareness, they will hold meetings once a quarter: June at Woodhaven, July at the Library, and August at Sherborn Meadows. The FD will also host a Summer Barbecue on June 20.

Kristina reported on Lifetime Learning. She has several offerings finalized or in the works which include Dave Smailes coming tomorrow at 1:30 to discuss the Debt Ceiling, Barry Hill, Opera, a Shakespeare series, and Kevin returning for another tech session.

Gerri noted that Martha, our marketing consultant, has been doing a lot of posting on Facebook on aging-related topics. Sue encouraged everyone who uses Facebook to be sure to follow her.

Sue also reported that the Resource Directory is almost complete and should be going to the printer soon.

Jim posed a question for Pete, asking when will the community assessment action plan be going to the Select Board (SB). Sue will be doing that this week. Jim asked whether it will be presented in person, to which Sue responded that she will ask Jeff Waldron to put her on the SB agenda so she can give it to them directly.

Senior Drop-In Center

Jim distributed a handout to summarize the team’s progress to date (see attached). They were impressed with the four towns’ senior facilities they visited: Medway, Millis, Holliston, and Medfield. Three of the four are part of a dedicated COA building, the other is a room in the basement of Town Hall.

All four have much in common. The seniors who come for drop in do so in the morning, often because they’re there for another purpose. Jim said it was easy to get distracted by everything going on in these places so they tried to focus on where the Seniors go specifically for drop-in. Medfield was the best. Ken said that the pastries were a big draw everywhere and that Millis had to put up signs to limit the number of pastries for each person. In terms of access, all centers had a scanner; though often they also had a person available to help at drop-in. The team noted that a lot of people seem to go back and forth between Millis and Medway. Carole said that Franklin Senior Centers used a card system too, which is really needed as their center is huge and really spectacular.

Jim went on to report that after visiting all four, they came up with a list of priorities for Sherborn. He believes that all the successful drop-ins are on the ground floor, easily accessible with nearby parking. Other Sherborn priorities include a location near town center; open week day mornings, 2 days at a minimum; a single room with comfy furniture, games and a large screen TV; coffee and donuts available; staffed by a volunteer.

All facilities visited have professional janitorial services that come 1-2x/week, with staff doing the tidying up the other days. He noted that Holliston has two pool tables which attracts a lot of men.

Ken stated that they had to stop delving more into other town's facilities because it was actually depressing to see how much they offer. Next week the team will be going to the Library to meet with Frank Orlando and discuss options there. They've already met with Jim Byrnes at the Community Center, which couldn't guarantee the same two days each week. They also met with Pilgrim Church which has a large back room, formerly a kindergarten classroom, that seems appealing.

Jim said their objective is to give the Board a recommendation once this process is done. Carole stated that as someone who is also on the Board of the Community Center, she finds all this very exciting.

Pete thanked Jim and his team for their good work.

New Business

Carole raised another possible initiative for the Board to address: as a walker, she would love to see a survey conducted of sidewalks in Sherborn, noting that many places are simply unsafe. In fact, they are so treacherous that she won't even walk there. Gerri agreed, citing the sidewalks on Rt. 27, and one area where there's such a big puddle that the walker has to step into the street. Recently she took a picture of this and sent it to the public works department. Jim added that part of improved safety should also be pruning low hanging tree branches.

Gerri went on to state that she thought we had a sidewalk audit in our community assessment/action plan. Pete asked whether it was in the plan and, if it is not, suggested we amend it. Sue checked and said that it was actually in the Town's Master Plan under Goal II A. Lori said she would look at our action plan and add the necessary language. Gerri suggested we put this in the "Advocate" section and reference the Town Master Plan. Carole recommended that we specifically request a sidewalk audit. The Board concurred.

As a new member, Carole requested a copy of the community action plan and the town Master Plan which Sue provided. Carole feels that awareness of the action plan will improve the face of the COA.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Pete asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn: Sally motioned, Lori seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:20am.

Meeting Schedule for 2023: 1/31, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/30, 6/27, 7/25, 8/29, 9/26, 10/31, 11/28 and 12/26

Minutes Approval on 6/27/2023. Attachments available upon request.