



Board Meeting Minutes of 6/27/2023 (in person)

Respectfully Submitted by Lori Howe

Voting Members Attending:

Pete Hoagland, Sally Tipton, Pam Sampson, Ken Adams, Carole Marple, Gerri Hawm, Jim Campbell, 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 9:38 a.m.

Pete opened the meeting with a call for Election of Officers for the coming year. All Board members have been approved by the Select Board and are eligible for office. The floor was opened for nominations.

Chairman: Sally motioned to appoint Pete Hoagland as Chairman of the Board, Pam seconded. There was no discussion. Gerri motioned to approve Pete as Chairman; Jim seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair: Jim motioned to appoint Sally Tipton as Vice-Chair of the Board, Gerri seconded. There was no discussion. Lori motioned to approve Sally as Vice-Chair; Pam seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer: Lori motioned to appoint Gerri Hawm as Treasurer of the Board, Jim seconded. There was no discussion. Sally motioned to approve Gerri as Treasurer; Pam seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Secretary: Jim motioned to appoint Lori Howe as Secretary of the Board, Gerri seconded. There was no discussion. Pam motioned to approve Lori as Secretary; Sally seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Having elected Officers, Pete proceeded with regular business.

Minutes. Pete asked for a motion on the May 30, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Jim moved to accept them as written with a correction to the spelling of Jim Byrnes' last name on page 3, Sally seconded. There being no discussion, the minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer Report by Gerri Hawm (see attached reports)

Gerri stated that we are close to the end of the fiscal year and are 93% spent, so based on what she knows now we won't go over budget for the year. Gerri noted that revenue from the sale of Note Cards was \$190 and \$231 came in from the Cultural Council. The cost of food for the Volunteer Luncheon was \$1,490.25.

Members commented that it was a lovely event and the food was delicious. There was no further discussion.

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

Sue directed members' attention to a new category in her report for *Referrals*. She said they will also begin tracking *Meetings* with each person and specific meetings in My Senior. This data will give an even better understanding of how many people COA is serving.

There is money outstanding for the Zoom Exercise Class which Kristina is working to collect. This occurred because some enrollees don't want to pay online, so COA has to generate an invoice. Sue also noted that all towns seem to charge extra for payment online.

The 6-week Mah Jong class ended; the group of 8 really enjoyed it and wants to continue. There was a paid instructor and Chuckie Blaney is helping. Kristina said that the instructor, who all the participants loved, will continue to come as a volunteer when she can.

Ted Reinstein from Chronicle is coming on Thursday, June 29, at 6:30pm to the Library to discuss *Before Brooklyn*. So far 20 people have signed up and Sue is hoping for more. They had the same number for Michael Tougias just before his presentation and ended up with 50.

Sue said they are planning two lunches for this Summer and Melinda is working with the Fire Department for another. In August, COA will host Elvis with Pizza on the deck of the Library; the event will move inside if there is rain.

Gerri said it is helpful to see *Attendance* numbers for events and classes and asked Sue to add those. Sue said that 40 attended the Volunteer Luncheon and 8 attended WhichCraft. Kristina said that about 12 participated in the Rug Making Class. Carole said she attended that class and was impressed with how nice the instructor was, as well as flexible and very patient. She also noted that there were some young people there, about 3-4 high schoolers.

Gerri asked whether the Tech Grant was still going, Sue responded yes and that they use it carefully, only tapping it when the Staff can't figure out a problem.

Pete thanked Sue for her report and thoroughness.

Senior Drop-In Center

Pete turned to Jim for a report on Ken's Café/Drop In Center. Jim handed out a written summary, saying that the committee had completed their survey and has a recommendation.

Jim reviewed their process. Their first stop was the *Sherborn Community Center* which offers the easiest access, a big plus; however, the Conference Room space has no sink for running water. Jim referred the Board to the layout attached to his summary. *Pilgrim Church* was also very accessible; however, the downside is that they want to keep their rooms available for Sunday and are not sure what the rental fees will be. The team visited the new *Library* and had a tour from Liz. The Library doesn't open until 10:00 am and has multiple levels. They looked at the big Community Room which has light, flexibility, and an adjacent kitchen, which is very busy. Jim said we could have used the Board Room but it's going to be furnished with big fixed furniture which won't accommodate the layout we are looking for. Lastly, the team visited *Clark House*, where the ground floor suite is large and available full time; however, it is very hard to get out on to Main Street. The rent was high so the committee decided to drop this site from consideration.

In summary, Jim stated that the committee recommends pursuing the Community Center. Jim said they'd like to get running water in the room and Carole said that, as an option, the bar is movable and is normally out in the hall. Ken added that they don't want people to go to the 2nd Floor, so they'd have to put water nearby the first floor Conference Room. Gerri asked why running water is necessary in the room and Ken responded for coffee and washing/cleaning up. Carole suggested putting everything on a cart.

Jim asked whether we should pursue the Community Center/Conference Room space. Discussion continued. Pete asked if there is a fee and Jim said there isn't one right now; the Community Center's initial offer is for two days a week, Tuesday and Thursday. Given that Senior Café is Thursday, Pam said we might try for Tuesday/Wednesday and thinks we can get them to agree.

Pam said that the Community Center was her first choice and thinks it's pretty ideal, all things considered. She thought the space is gorgeous, felt cozy, and loved the windows. The tables are a little big and Jim responded that we could change them out. The Community Center liked the Drop In Center idea and felt it was a good step toward getting the community back in the building. Pam felt that it would be a great space for Mah Jong and other similar activities. She also likes that it's centrally located, non-denominational, and that the space is free. Lori agreed that it's nice that this facility is fully community-focused. Gerri offered that she really likes the Conference room, said it's a nice size, has a good feel; however, we absolutely have to have it the same two days each week.

Melinda added that, knowing the Board of Health, it might be difficult to get a sink installed in the room. Gerri suggested we pick up a box Joe each time rather than making coffee.

Ken stated that the Community Center really wants us and we should accept that there will be some costs involved. The Community Center is flexible and willing to work with us. Jim agreed with Ken and stated that he wants the Board to endorse this choice.

Gerri said that she's on board for getting this room, however not for adding a sink which she thinks would ruin the room. Ken said not to worry about it as we could use the adjacent space labelled "Space Rented to Full-Time Tenant" for the sink/water.

Carole added that the Community Center Board would be delighted to have COA take this space. There are great things coming and in terms of community engagement they feel like COA is a perfect fit.

Pam offered a final comment, asking if we can get a scanner there to track access and have those numbers reflected in the My Senior Program. Sue said we definitely can.

With no additional questions or discussion, Pete asked if there is a motion on this matter.

Gerri motioned to approve the committee's recommendation to move ahead with space in the Community Center for two fixed days per week. Lori seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

Pete extended special thanks to Jim, Pam, and Ken for all their work to bring the Drop In Center this far along.

Pam said that Medfield has the best COA facilities, especially since they can use the Kingsbury pool. Sue reminded everyone that the Kingsbury pool is open to Sherborn COA as well. Sally added that we have Farm Pond too!

New Business

Pete asked if there was any other business. Jim stated that the Moderator of Pilgrim Church approached him and suggested that someone in Town needs to educate advanced Seniors about what their options are for the “next step”, i.e. how to downsize, get rid of furniture, clothes, etc., which is a common problem for people of this age. Jim said this is something that falls right in COA’s mission.

Sue said they can put together a Lifetime Learning series on this topic, probably 6-weeks. Gerri said that since no one wants “brown” furniture these days, there are businesses that will re-do “brown”. Her daughter in Chicago recently transformed a piece that came out great. Pete asked Melinda how often she gets these questions and Melinda said not much but she knows that there are many organizations offering solutions. Lori reinforced that there are a wide range of needs out there and people who could benefit from this series; lots of people are concerned that their children will be left to deal with all this. Jim said that the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store in Ashland is a good place to donate furniture and household goods. And every Thursday they get a large donation from Wayfair that they then make available for sale.

Adjournment

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

Motion to Adjourn: Pam motioned, Lori seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

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 Approved on 7/25/2023. Attachments available upon request.