



Board Meeting Minutes of 1/30/2024

Respectfully Submitted by Lori Howe

Voting Members Attending:

Pete Hoagland, Sally Tipton, Gerri Hawn, Ken Adams, Pam Sampson, Lori Howe, Denise Orlando

Voting Members Absent: 0

Non-Voting Associate Members Attending: Pat Gray, Carole Marple, Jim Campbell

Non-Voting Associate Members Absent: 0

Staff Attending: Sue Kelliher, Kristina Gallant, Melinda Morle

Community Members Attending: 1

Voting Members Absent: 0

Quorum? Yes

Call to Order by Chair Pete Hoagland at 9:36 a.m.

Pete first welcomed Denise Orlando as the Board's newest member. He also greeted Shruti Panjini, who came as a guest interested in the COA.

Minutes. Pete asked for a motion on the December 12, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Sally motioned to approve as revised, Jim seconded. There being no questions or discussion, the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Budget Discussion (see attached reports)

Sue reported that she attended the Advisory Committee meeting last Tuesday. Penn Young is our liaison. He asked about Sit'nSip, whether we had checked other spaces, why not use Town Hall, criteria to continue it, etc. Sue satisfied all his concerns and also told him that COA would make a determination about the future of Sit'nSip by end of February/March. Advisory was fine with our budget submission. Sue also reported that Jim Byrnes has resigned as Executive Director (ED) of the Sherborn Community Center (CC) effective the end of the month. Corinne Whitaker will be our new liaison for Sit'nSip. Carole Marple asked whether we had invited Penn Young to attend a Board meeting; Sue responded she has not but will. Penn has also offered to take over *Notable Seniors* from Ann Bekebrede when she retires.

Lori asked whether there is a plan for Executive Director succession. Carole said the CC Board has a zoom meeting planned for next Tuesday at which time they'll be reviewing the ED job description and determining how to proceed.

Outdoor Signage

Sue reported that she had checked on progress with Jeremy two weeks ago. Diane then followed up

with Sean and Addie Mae who said they are “working on it”. Sue will stay in touch with Diane to keep this moving ahead.

Sit’nSip (see Director’s report)

Sue reviewed her chart which shows that Sit’nSip is averaging attendance of 6 to 18, with Tuesdays being slower. We do get increased participation with Garden Club meeting on Tuesdays and Line Dancing on Wednesdays. Ken asked when we can expect the CC to come back to us on the lease; Sue said she’ll have to set up a meeting and added that Jeff Waldron told her that he wants to be part of it. Sue said she has just received the first bill from CC for January and February. Pam announced that she will be away until April 10 and said we need coverage, especially from now to then. Sue said that Wednesdays in February are covered but we need a volunteer for the second shift (10:15am to Noon) on Tuesdays; Denise said she can do February 6. Ken asked Sue to send out the Sign-up Sheet so volunteers can coordinate coverage. Carole offered a support dog as a way to attract participation.

Resource Fair

Although we have been referring to it as the “Caregiver Resource Fair”, Melinda, who is taking the lead, has started calling it the “Older Adult Resource Fair” to make it attractive to a wider audience. The Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 13, from Noon to 2pm at the Library. Sue will be away that day so we will be a bit short-staffed; she encouraged Board members to come and support the event. Sue also reported that Phyllis Braun is turning 100 on March 9th and discussed what COA will do to celebrate the occasion. She said that Garden Club wants to do a celebration at Sit’nSip on Tuesday, March 12, with an 11am cake cutting. Melinda also reported that Pat LeBlanc called about COA hosting a birthday celebration at Senior Café on March 14 with cake and roses on the tables. Again, Sue encouraged the Board to attend these events.

Conflict of Interest

Pete reminded members that a notice went out about taking this training. He said that some are due while others are not. In either case, members should log in to the State ethics site to check their status and get a confirmation.

Treasurer’s Report. (see attached reports)

Gerri reported that this is her first report since the end of November as our December meeting came early with a special budget discussion for the next fiscal year. For this year to date, we have overspent by about \$1,000 in a couple line items. One is Lifetime Learning where she has started to pay instructors for 2024 classes. And in Fitness/Rec/Social, Gerri said we’ve made a little on Line Dancing but in the first half we lost \$1,000 on three exercise classes. Also revenue is dragging because people forget to pay. Kristina described how/why this happens and Board members offered suggestions for ways to collect. Carole asked if we offer scholarships; Kristina replied that we do offer but some people just don’t want to take it. More discussion and brainstorming ensued.

Gerri noted that we eliminated the line item for Exercise because we thought Rec would handle it but that hasn’t happened. Sue reported that we were awarded a Fitness grant of \$10,000 from MetroWest

Health Foundation which will fund Fitbits, outdoor Tai Chi and Leila as the Health Coach. Sue also said that she asked Melinda to look into the program “Dementia Live”. Melinda reported that it’s a very good program which imitates what it’s like to have dementia and shows how all senses are affected, which makes people more empathetic.

New Business

Pete announced that this year’s Town Meeting will be April 23-24, 2024. There are some big capital items on the agenda, including:

1. Historical Society wants space in a part of the Library and \$900,000 for renovations and climate controls. They are now paying \$1,000/month for storage. Sue noted that they have a signed Agreement with the Town to provide space for them. Pam asked whether they can partner with the Massachusetts Historical Society for assistance and Carole responded that they probably have no money.
2. Funding for new Pickleball & Tennis Courts and Jameson Ball Fields in the amount of \$600,000 is being requested.

These items have gone to Advisory and were discussed at Select Board and are going back to Advisory.

Melinda reported that two events scheduled recently – the “Barefoot in the Park” movie and Barry Pell’s talk on the Faroe Islands -- were both cancelled due to low registration. She said although both were good ideas, she learned that people didn’t want to come out at night for such events, so we have to be careful of the time slots we assign.

Sue reported that we have been having more issues with *JFK Transportation*, with whom we have a Letter of Agreement effective through June 2024. They are getting difficult to work with and it is often hard to get service. They do not communicate well. With that in mind, Sue and Kristina will be meeting later today with a new transportation service in Framingham. This company is available on weekends, as well as weekdays, and have fully trained and vaccinated staff.

Adjournment

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

Motion to Adjourn: Sally motioned, Gerri seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40a.m.

Minutes Approved on 2/27/2024. Attachments available upon request.

Meeting Schedule for 2024: 1/30, 2/27, 3/26, 4/30, 5/28, 6/25, 7/30, 8/27, 9/24, 10/29, 11/26 and 12/31