



Board Meeting Minutes of 2/27/2024

Respectfully Submitted by Lori Howe

Voting Members Attending:

Pete Hoagland, Sally Tipton, Ken Adams, Lori Howe

Voting Members Absent: Gerri Hawn, Denise Orlando, Pam Sampson

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

Non-Voting Associate Members Absent: 0

Staff Attending: Kristina Gallant, Melinda Morle

Community Members Attending: 2

Voting Members Absent: 3

Quorum? Yes

Call to Order by Chair Pete Hoagland at 9:34 a.m.

Pete first welcomed Tom Urmston and Shruti Panjini, who came as guests interested in the COA.

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

Treasurer's Report. (see attached reports)

Gerri was not present but provided detailed year-to-date reports to the Board for review before this meeting. There were no questions or comments.

Outdoor Signage

Pete asked if there was anything new on signage. Kristina reported that Addie Mae stopped by yesterday and told them that the updated sign is going up this Spring and will include a line for "Town of Sherborn COA". The Board was pleased with this progress.

Sit'nSip

Kristina noted that we still need more volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, especially since it is hard for the staff to cover with all they have going on. Right now there is no one on for Tuesday 10:15 to Noon; we are covered for Wednesday but still need help on Tuesdays, March 12, 19, and 26. She'll send out the schedule. They are still looking for an electronic sign-up option. In terms of attendance, Sit'nSip was cancelled on Tuesday last week due to weather; on Wednesday they had 9 people. The week before there were 15 on Tuesday and 12 on Wednesday.

Ken reported that he received a proposal from Chief Galvin who offered the Police Department (PD) conference room starting in June if we need an option to the Community Center (CC). Ken noted that this location is easy to get to so would be appealing. Since there is uncertainty with the CC, the Board appreciated this offer. Tom said that personally he thinks the Community Center is a better choice than the Police Department. Carole stated that we need to consider that a location change will be viewed as a negative. Sally said it's nice to have the PD offer as back-up since it's important to continue Sit'nSip. Jim added that Sit'nSip is proving to be a nice offering for all town residents not just seniors and would encourage Sue to begin negotiating with the CC and include Jeremy.

Carole said that the CC Board is still trying to figure things out. Jim Byrnes had provided a lot of momentum and now that he is gone progress has stalled. She went on to note that the Board has hired a new Executive Director and that Ernie has resigned effective end of March which is another big loss. The next CC Board meeting is tonight and she thinks they'll be considering Sit'nSip.

Sally pointed out that the numbers we get are increased because Line Dancing and Garden Club are already in the building and, while some come to Sit'nSip, those people are already focused on being out and socializing. We need to do more to get others to attend who need this social outlet. There was discussion of how to attract, uses, room layout, etc. Lori suggested that we consider instituting a "buddy system" where Board members and volunteers pair up with residents who are isolated. Tom complimented COA on how well they have supported his neighbor Ellen Morrison, especially recently when the power/heat went out and COA took her to a hotel.

Resource Fair

Melinda gave an update on the "Older Adult Resource Fair", which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, from Noon to 2pm at the Library. All vendors are lined up and an article is in the Hometown Weekly. There will be food for 150 box lunches; she needs help with day-of-assembly. Lori and Jim volunteered. Melinda went on to report that she also has some nice raffle items; attendees will receive a raffle ticket when they check in. Melinda asked the Board to spread the word so we attract as many people as possible. Kristina added that we will be happy to get 75, which would be a big success.

Conflict of Interest

Pete reminded the Board to do the mandatory ethics training. Whether one is due or not, everyone should go to the State webpage to check their status and get a confirmation.

Transportation

Kristina reported that she and Sue have been negotiating with a new company in Framingham. This company is expensive but they told the representative what COA can afford, so she and Sue are hopeful. Also, they are still negotiating with JFK. Dial-a-Ride will continue to be free through June.

Strategic Plan

Pete turned the Board's attention to the Strategic Plan. Lori suggested that with Sue, Gerri, Pam, and Denise absent today, we defer this discussion until the next meeting. The Board agreed.

New Business

Pete asked whether there are any new items of business. Jim asked if anyone knew whether there will be a memorial service/celebration for Beth Jenkins who fell recently, went into the hospital and died the next morning. Apparently there will be a private service at the funeral home and family/friends are invited to the burial, but no word on other details.

Discussion turned to the Men's Lunch which had a very good turnout yesterday. Since the Heritage has been sold and will be closed for renovation, opening in April as Fireside Tavern Sherborn, the men will meet next at Morse's Tavern in Natick.

Carole announced that she received an email that the Library settlement has been finalized for about \$1.5million, noting that this presents lots of implications.

Carole also asked if we can advertise what's happening at the Thursday Senior Café to increase attendance. Kristina responded that notices and articles already appear in the weekly email blast as well as the LINK. Attendance always depends on what the presentation/entertainment is. Ken added that the staff put a lot effort into drawing people to the Café and making each one appealing. Kristina announced that Senior Café will be ending in April and that she and Melinda are working to find options for May and June.

Kristina took the opportunity to update the Board on **programming**. She reported that Leila is coming back to online fitness after being away for two months on the West Coast to care for her mother. Sue and Kristina are scheduled to meet with her tomorrow. They hope to plan more outside exercise activities, such as Tai Chi, meditative walks, etc. In terms of Lifetime Learning,

- *Politics* will be starting next week on Mondays at the Library
- *Opera* starts next week on Tuesday, on Zoom at first, then at the Library;
- The *MesoAmerica* course was cancelled as only 6 people enrolled and they needed 15
- *Mindful Eating* was also cancelled, as only 3 people enrolled.
- All other course numbers look good.

Lastly, Kristina reported that Lifetime Learning is \$800 in the black.

Kristina noted that Shruti is here again and will be meeting with Sue to discuss Associate membership.

Adjournment

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:21a.m.

Minutes remain in draft until Approval on 3/26/2024. 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