

Ashland Council on Aging
April 5, 2018

Guests:

Joanne Duffy, Jennifer Wuelfing, Kim Kotob, Steve Mitchell, Michael Herbert

Board Members:

Present; James Zebrowski, Barbara Thoresen, Dianne Hanson, Carol Love, Izzy Assencoa, Jean Delouchry, Sara Perkett, and Donna Vuilleumier. Absent: Alexis Christopher

Meeting called to order at 10:01 AM.

Mission Statement read by Barbara

Citizens Participation:

Steve Mitchell spoke about upcoming Town Meeting (May 2, 8, 10) to discuss the town charter, debt exclusion, the feasibility of options for the Mindness School, an option to opt out of adult recreational use of marijuana, and a presentation for a capital plan among other topics. Michael Herbert expressed thanks for the senior resource fair and spoke about the remediation of the Cadillac property. Jennifer Wuelfing shared information on a computer literacy workshop in Framingham 4/18, and spoke about an upcoming transportation concerns event on 4/25. She attended a cultural diversity training on concerns for the aging LGBTQ cohort, and there will be a full day training by Baypath.

Secretary's Report:

The March 1, 2018 Secretary's Report was recapped with full text copies in hand for the CoA members. There was discussion noting the action items in bold as helpful and 2 areas were misdated. A motion was made by Diane and seconded by Jean to accept the Secretary's minutes once the dates were corrected. The COA Board then voted unanimously to accept the Secretary's Minutes.

Outreach Report:

Out Reach Report - The Outreach Report for April 2018 was shared. Copies of this can be requested through Susan Wells at the Outreach Coordinators Office. 127 clients have been served (7 new) and 51 received the hot lunch. The Center was open for warming, charging and support during the March 9 storm. Following a fire at the Chestnut Place apartments there was support and a resource fair for those who were effected. Rep. Jack Lewis assisted the Park Rd Housing complex residents in having a functioning laundry room, and it was noted that he is an advocate for the seniors in many ways. Due to the recent storms some seniors have been assisted with replacement food stamps and emergency runs for prescriptions. **Action: State Rep Jack Lewis and State Senator Karen Spilka will be invited to join the CoA when our meeting is arranged to be at the Park Rd Housing complex.**

Directors Report:

Joanne Duffy read the Directors Report dated April 2018. The Lions will provide First Thursday breakfast in May but not in June, July or August. Anticipate the new van driver will be hired within a few weeks. The Volunteer Lunch will be on 5/1 at Keefe Tech. MCOA Cultural Competency Training TBD.

The Dementia Friendly movement surveys have been analyzed by Baypath. Key issues are: safety and disaster planning contingencies, community awareness training, resources tailored to diverse and underserved populations, and making physical environments and public spaces dementia friendly. There will be a meeting with the Police Chief to discuss possible use of a registry and My Senior Center Program. Steve Mitchell will contact Erica's about a 'Purple Table' set aside for persons with dementia or others who would benefit from special attention. This is modeled on a program created by the Red Raven in Acton. The group will meet on 4/17 at 2pm to discuss options and to plan a larger community meeting. Funding options are being considered. **Action: CoA will begin to plan and respond according to the needs arising from the 4/17 meeting.**

Motion to accept the Directors Report was made by Dianne and seconded by Carol. The COA Board voted unanimously to accept the Directors Report.

Old Business:

Senior Housing in Ashland- Diane attended Ashland Housing Authority meeting indicating the CoA intention to be involved by periodic meetings and advocacy. Their board has 5 members and 2 are residents. The Executive Director (for Millis and Medway also) is Candace Doherty (508-250-3700). Resident concerns are lighting, laundry, smoking, decreasing common space and shared items. **Action: In keeping with our mission statement we will be holding CoA meetings at different senior housings in town. Jim will coordinate a date for the CoA meeting at Park Rd. The CoA will meet on May 3 at the Ashland Commons.**

Acknowledgment of Gabe Mugerian's Service- CoA collected for a Market Basket gift card, the BOS will recognize him with a proclamation for his continuing service. **Action: Sara to create Certificate of Appreciation to be given at Volunteer Luncheon.**

CoA Banner- discussed use at Farmer's Market and other events. **Action: Jim to obtain one from Keefe Tech similar to FCoA.**

Revisions to Policies and Procedures- Chose sub-committee of Jim, Carol, Jean and Diane to review new BOS handbook and outdated CoA manual. **Action: CoA will review both documents and provide suggestions to sub-committee in June for their full process.**

Considering Evening Offerings at Center- Discussed options and questioned if there are unmet needs of younger seniors compared to those who are older but do not come to the Center. Acknowledged there are currently some offerings available: Courageous Conversations, Great Decisions and a knitting group. **Action: Jean will assist with the knitting group, CoA will check into various restaurants in town for mix/mingle as a discounted social event, then allow other potential evening events to emerge organically.**

Agenda Items Not Discussed and Postponed to a Future Meeting:

- 1.) Activities and ideas from other senior centers
- 2.) Addressing diversity in Ashland
- 3.) Rebranding

One Last Thing

This was a very good meeting, looking forward to the meetings at the different housing communities and the challenges for which we will advocate. Donna shared information on WACA PSA Days to promote various projects.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:56 was made by Jean and seconded by Sara. The CoA Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Vuilleumier - Secretary COA