

Town of Hudson Council on Aging

Minutes for 1/4/23 COA Board Meeting, Hudson Senior Center, 29 Church St. Hudson MA

A hybrid meeting was called to order at 1:00 by Patricia Desmond; Chair.

Members in attendance through a roll call; In person; Trisha Desmond; chair, Diane Durand; Recording Secretary, Charlie Corley, Janet Saluk, Ed Silveira and Janice Long; Director.

Attending via zoom; Nina Smith; Treasurer, Tony Monteiro, Melissa Esteves

Members absent; John Gill

Guests; In person; Kathy Janssen

Trisha asked for any additions to the **Agenda** presented. Charlie asked for a discussion regarding the cleaning of the Senior Center be added to New Business. A motion was made by Charlie Corley to accept the Agenda as edited. The motion was seconded by Diane Durand and the vote was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Trisha called for any corrections to the **Minutes** of 12/14/22. Tony asked that the minutes reflect the concern for such a delay in the hiring of cleaning staff for the Center to be added in the Director's Report. A motion was made by Tony Monteiro to accept the Minutes as edited. The motion was seconded by Charlie Corley and the vote was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

The Treasurer's Report;

- Nina noted that the telephone charge of \$88.80 remains to be corrected by the Town. With this deduction, the Center's budget has a balance of \$24,078.70. She reported the Revolving Account balance as of the end of the fiscal year to be \$52,864.26 and at the start of 2023, a balance of \$52,242.17. Nina is not sure if we match the Town due to their delay to process the figures. Tony inquired about the status of Revolving Account expenditures which cannot exceed \$70K. Nina mentioned that the Center has only spent \$26K thus far. Tony made a request that the Treasurer's Report be available to members prior to meetings for perusal. Nina will try to do so in the future. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Diane Durand, seconded by Ed Silveira and the vote was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

The Director's Report;

- Janice informed members of the hiring of an additional part time cleaning person for the Center and the Library. This person would be cleaning the Center on Fridays. Janice expressed her displeasure noting this would not be sufficient and the DPW is attempting to hire a full time person.

- The recent "Grab and Go" was well attended by 70 people

- Staff assembled and delivered 50 "Holiday Cheer" bags containing treats, books, toiletries, socks, mittens, etc. to homebound seniors.

- Janice has been in contact with the Shrewsbury Outreach worker regarding our Daybreak program. They are in the process of writing a grant through MCOA for their own respite program which will be available to Hudson residents.

- Tony asked Janice about the liability of the Snowshoeing Program being offered. She responded that Tom Gregory assured her that volunteers would be covered under the Town's insurance and participants would be as long as they have signed the Center's waiver for activities. Janice mentioned that funds to cover the cost of the 5 pairs of snowshoes for participants to use came from the Revolving Account.

- Tony noted a couple of edits in the Director's Report.

A motion was made to accept the **Director's Report** by Ed Silveira and seconded by Charlie Corley. The vote was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Outreach;

- Janice reported the numbers of Open Enrollment cases were down a bit, although overall numbers are good.

- Holly has met with Fire Dept officials regarding their Safety Program offered to our seniors. Thus far, 11 seniors have had their batteries replaced for smoke/CO2 detectors.

- Alex and Lauren are writing a grant which would offer lower income Hudson seniors an Uber ride needed to any medical appointment after completing a screening process.

- SMOC is short staffed and trying to keep up with the huge demand of applications they are receiving, some due to fuel increases. They have seen an increase from 2,000-3500 applications.

Bus Drivers;

-Janice continues to be challenged with the hiring of an additional bus driver after securing a driver only to have this person change his mind about the position.

- Lenny was out for a bit, but Jack and Jim were able to cover his runs. Janice spoke very highly of the job Lenny does taking care of his riders and how much they appreciate him. We are very fortunate to have Lenny as a part of our staff.

A motion was made to accept the **Outreach** and **Bus Driver's Reports** by Ed Silveira, seconded by Nina Smith and the vote was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

A motion was made to accept the **Director's Report** by Tony Monteiro, seconded by Ed Silveira and the vote was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Facilities Committee; none

Friends; Janice mentioned the Friends were busy selling Calendar Raffles throughout the month of December and winners will be drawn daily in January. Those winners' names will be posted on the Friends' Board.

Correspondence; none

Old Business; Janice reminded members of the presence of Covid and other illnesses. She is aware of some staff and seniors contracting mild cases of Covid, therefore no mask mandate as of yet.

New Business - Kathy Janssen addressed the committee regarding their questions last month pertaining to the "Village to Village" concept. Some new information included the "Seaglass Village" which serves the communities of Swampscott, Marblehead and Nahant. She informed members of the steps they took to start

which included a survey and database. Janice agreed to speak with the Director of the Swampscott COA to gain further information and then she and Kathy will speak to Tom Gregory. Tony asked if Swampscott COA offers bus transportation to their seniors.

- Janice mentioned that Marshfield set up a "Village" concept but never used it and experienced a decrease in staff.
- Charlie credited Janice and her staff with their efforts in trying to keep the Center clean each day but expressed his displeasure with the Town's efforts in securing a permanent cleaning person. He suggested the Board draft a letter to Tom Gregory to convey these concerns. Charlie, Ed, Diane and Tony volunteered to meet on Friday to comprise a letter which would express the Board's concerns for the health of those seniors utilizing the Center without proper cleaning. Tony made a motion that Charlie, Ed, Diane and Tony will meet on at the Senior Center on Friday January 6th at 10am for the purpose of creating a letter to be sent to Tom Gregory indicating the Board's displeasure of the lack of proper cleaning of our Center. The letter would then be sent to Board members for their approval before being sent to Mr. Gregory. The motion was seconded by Janet Saluk and the vote was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:13pm by Charlie Corley, seconded by Ed Silveira and the vote was unanimously approved by roll call vote. The next meeting is February 1, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Durand