

COA Board Meeting July 16, 2020

Attendees: Gerri Scoll, Marge Ackerman, Alice Benson, Leslye Fligor, Susan Ruskin Friend, Bob Froh, Linda Johnson, Wayne Johnson, Jean MacQuiddy, Mignonne Murray, Tom Nicholson, Carol Ott, Prather Palmer, Gerri Scholl, Teresa Young (associate member).

Absent: Betsey Boyd, Melissa Galton, Vida Goldstein (associate member).

Due to the suspension of the public meetings during the Covid-19 Emergency, this meeting was held via zoom and recorded.

Meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

No resident concerns were expressed.

Minutes of the June 18, 2020 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Prather Palmer remarked how well the formal grant and operating budget were managed. No stated budget for FY 2021 has been approved yet. Though transportation and postage are well over budget, they will be balanced with other unrestricted funds. Carol Ott moved and Gerri Scoll seconded to accept the treasurer's report. It was accepted.

The Zolla Fund requires an annual vote to approve spending its interest income. Geri Scoll moved and Carol Ott seconded to approved the spending. It was approved.

New Members: Marge welcomed Linda Johnson and Wayne Johnson as newly appointed members of the Board.

Director's Report: Mignonne Murray announced a new social worker has been hired with experience working in a very similar COA. Mignonne thought the candidate would fit well with our culture.

Operations: The Town of Weston still has 50% office staff on site at any time. Doors are closed to visitors. Phones are answered live. The van is running, but lightly used. Phase 3 information and fall schedule are being developed. This plan is to continue to keep programs on line while also exploring possible outdoor programs. The town website is going through redesign, with the goal of being ready in the fall. Mignonne is on this team and requested board members' recommendations of other website features and layouts that are easy to use/navigate. The goal is to create a site as user friendly as possible. Alice asked if online registration would be built in. Mig replied that we already have myseniorcenter software, but do not have the capability of paying by credit card. It is time for our COA to take credit cards. Carol asked how we can help pay for ZOOM program participation. Mig is exploring options. Before September, there will be a decision on how to get payment/contributions to cover the cost of programs.

Open House: Mignonne asked for thoughts on whether to have some sort of virtual fall open house to introduce the community to the program offerings. Leslye spoke to the value of continuing an open house. Weston Media had filmed the Fall 2019 open house and video

interviews with program instructors for the 2020-2021 would be ideal for a Fall 2020 Virtual Open House.

Governance: Susan is updating the board contact list and will be circulating that and the committee list to Board Members for any updates/changes.

Needs Assessment: Tom reported the group met June 25. A feasibility study will cost \$70,000-\$90,000 and must get approval from Town Meeting. First, we will need to create the case for the need. Needs Assessment group members will be proactively participating in many other town committees to bring wider awareness to the unmet needs of older adults. The committees include Housing, Recreation, Fire Department, Brook School, Permanent Building and Planning. We will try to list the 10 most important factors we're facing at the COA, which will come out of the needs assessment study.

- 50 people/day participate in COA programs. But many more would if the COA had the space.
- 14% of seniors have incomes of \$25,000 or less
- Isolation of seniors is a serious problem

Mig advised that we will need to judge the landscape for when to make "the ask" for the COA moving forward on requesting incremental space.

Housing: Alice reported the town is going forward with the housing production plan in the fall. In a few weeks, Alice will call a meeting of the Housing group.

Transportation: Gerri reported The Ride drivers went on strike recently. Jane report Lyft and Uber had their funding slashed. There are very few available cars.

Community Connections: It has not met.

FCOA: Betsey sent a report. Collections are down about \$7,000. In the past year the FCOA gave the COA \$59,000. A block grant of \$4,000 will soon come to the COA. Tom suggested the FCOA be invited to an upcoming COA Board meeting. We will formally thank them for their efforts to support our cause.

Awareness: No meeting to report.

Springwell: Wayne reported that the last Springwell meeting continued its discussion of getting more insurance reimbursements. Wayne asked them if they've planned for anticipated changes in the state budget, which is currently 95% of their \$42million budget.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45am.

Next meeting is September 17 at 8:30am.