

**SALEM COUNCIL ON AGING  
Minutes of Regular Meeting**

**Date and Time:** June 15, 2022 at 5:15 P.M.

**Meeting Location:** Via Zoom

**Members Present:** Lynda Coffill (LC, Chair), John Russell (JR, Vice-Chair), Kristin Macek (KM, Secretary), Patricia Small (PS), Abigail Butt (AB), George Barbuzzi (GB), Eliud Alcalá (EA)

**Also Present:** Teresa Arnold (TA, Director of the COA)  
Leveille McClain (City Council Liaison)

**Clerk:** Kathleen Fitzgerald

**Meeting Called to Order**

LC called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M.

LC stated that pursuant to Governor Baker's directive on 3/12/20 which supported certain provisions of Chapter 30A, Section 20, there are strict limitations regarding gatherings, so this meeting is being conducted via Zoom. The public and persons who would like to listen may do so by dialing in. All votes taken shall be by roll call.

LC welcomed Eliud Alcalá to the Board.

Roll call was then taken.

A motion was made by JR to accept the May Minutes as amended, seconded by AB, roll call was taken, and passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**Lee Fort Terrace:** LC reached out to Beacon Properties but there has been no response.

KM said she would attend the ZBA meeting tonight at 6:30 P.M. since Beacon Properties will be presenting.

A letter from Richard Stafford to appeal the construction was read. A petition was sent out with the letter.

JR said he was aware of it and that most of the Willows Neighborhood Association was against the project but not against housing – just the size of the housing. JR said there were a lot of issues – height, length, wetlands, etc. and it was no longer public housing but under private domain. JR explained that the Salem Housing Authority is a leader in the permitting and can override height, etc.

KM said that Beacon Properties said they already scaled it down which was because of the loss of the two acres so they had not really made any concessions.

### **New Business:**

#### **SNAP/HIP Program:**

LC wanted to go back to the topic of the Farmers' Market coupons. AB said she has never seen an increase from the \$25.00 and asked if the Board could contact someone about this as the amount no longer seemed fair. AB said she would inquire with the Agriculture Board to see how long it has been \$25.00. LC asked if the Board was interested in pursuing this through legislation and asked the Board if she had permission to do this.

There was a discussion about the program where restaurants would accept SNAP cards from seniors where costs are actually paired down.

JR suggested contacting Manny Cruz concerning this and to address the social isolation issues.

AB advised that SNAP RMP must be locally and privately-owned and that the application deadline was August 31<sup>st</sup>. She said it takes about 15 minutes to complete it and there was no fee for the restaurant. This would help with isolation issues.

PS asked if the Board should try to recruit restaurants. EA said to try Tipico restaurant. AB said she was loving all the ideas and that the Board should reach out and get this going. EA and PS said they would help reach out to restaurants. JR suggested contacting the Chamber of Commerce. LC said she would send a letter to the Chamber.

Mr. Ford who was supposed to come to the Board Meeting did not attend. The consensus was that he does not want to talk with the Board.

TA said she sent out revisions to the Mission statement. JR made a motion to accept the Amended Mission Statement and PS seconded. AB asked if we could put the Mission statement in the newsletter. LC said yes. TA said the Mission Statement already appears in each newsletter. AB said she has still not received the monthly newsletter via email.

AB asked if the COA was participating in any pride events. LC said the parade was June 25<sup>th</sup>. TA said she would try to mobilize some people.

### **Friends Update:**

JR said 102 people signed up for the barbeque which was moved from Winter Island to the COA because of the heat. He said the cost was about \$500.00 which was very cost effective, but a little bit of work. He said the Friends have a new treasurer, Bonnie Belair, as Diane Ayers has moved from the area.

He said there was approximately \$64,000.00 in their account. He said they were also looking for more Board Members. GB asked if they had reached out to the banks in the area and volunteered to reach out to them. JR said that would be great.

AB asked if there were Salem residents who prepared taxes through AARP. TA said she would reach out to Mary Pax Lenney who used to handle the tax program. AB asked if there were any philanthropists in Salem. JR said that members of the Friends don't have to reside in Salem. AB said she knew some Beverly people.

JR said there would be a meeting for the final touches for the luau planned for July 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets would be going on sale at \$50.00 each.

JR said someone wanted to look into using the CLC parking lot on weekends and if the Webb lot was full maybe we should look into it as maybe the CLC could make some money.

JR said the Friends need to talk to TA about the Cummings grant application.

### **Director's Report:**

#### **Social Services:**

We will be meeting the end of June with leadership from North Shore Community Health to see how we will continue the collaboration once grant funds have been exhausted. Lunch and Learn workshops will be rescheduled as the presenter came down with COVID and then left the organization. We hope to especially maintain their clinical social worker's availability for counseling at the CLC.

We are still seeing an increase in housing applications due to properties selling for redevelopment and folks returning to this area. In a week, Social Services saw the following: a person from Utah, someone from Florida and an individual from St Louis, none who had plans and thought they would get right into housing. These individuals have family or friends here and they were also unaware of the long wait list for housing.

Social Services will be distributing Farmers Market coupons again this year (which is usually the 1st week of August) but set up the call wait list in July to make it fair for all to have a chance at obtaining the \$25 worth of coupons to purchase items at the various farmer markets across the State.

In May, Social Services served 323 folks serviced 767 times. The breakdown is as follows:

Category	Duplicated	Unduplicated
Case Mgt/advocacy	373	127
General info	323	146
Health Benefits Counseling	57	38
Durable Medical Equip Loan	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>
Totals	767	323

**Nutrition:**

We are conducting state required annual congregate dining surveys and will have the results in the coming months.

We are receiving positive comments for the moderate upgrades from our kitchen, at a minor cost, added to the Trio catered meals such as a fresh fruit cup, salad, and pudding from the extra milks.

We are benefitting from the surplus of the Salem Pantry Pop-Up Market and Farm Direct Co-Op. We added a hot soup to the cold salad plate last week. We have ground beef and pollack for future meals.

**Transportation:**

David Colpitts has joined the team as a van driver this week.

**Programs:**

**Memory Café & Caregiver Support Group:** The next Memory Café will feature a lunch catered by Root and will be held at Winter Island on June 30th. TMax will lead the café in music and entertainment. The café attendance is growing. The support group is held the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 P.M. This group has been steadily growing as well.

We took a small group to the PEM this past Friday. We had an excellent tour on an exhibit that included work from Marie Watt and the sewing circles she hosted in 2019. One of the first circles was here and two of the seniors that went with us on Friday took part in the 2019 circle. They found their squares and were so proud of their work.

The Father's Day BBQ is this Thursday with 75 signed up. John Russell is working with Rosanna Donahue to plan the meal.

Our Greek cooking demonstrations continue to be a big hit.

We are losing our balance teacher due to the upcoming birth of her baby. We are on the search for a substitute to fill in for her while she is on leave.

The 4th of July event will be on Friday, July 1st.

Other Noteworthy News:

**COA Budget:**

TA presented the FY'23 Budget to the City Council and it was approved for a total of \$621,061.57. Operating expenses are \$105,500.00 and the Personnel budget is \$515,561.57.

There being no further business:

A motion to adjourn was made by JR, AB seconded, roll call was taken and passed unanimously.

Next Board Meeting: September 21, 2022, in person with hybrid option.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Fitzgerald, Clerk