

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

Date and Time: November 20, 2018 at 5:16 P.M.

Meeting Location: Conference Room, 401 Bridge Street

Members Present: Lynda Coffill (LC, Chairperson), Julie Carver (JC, Secretary), Elaine Heredeem (EH, Vice Chair), Alice Williams (AW), Abigail Butt (AB), George Barbuzzi (GB)

Members Absent: Alison Thibodeau (AT), Donna Clifford (DC), and John Russell (JR)

Also Present: Teresa Arnold, (TA, Director of the COA)

Clerk: Kathleen Fitzgerald

Meeting Called to Order

LC calls the meeting to order at 5:16 P.M.

Motion made by AW to approve the October minutes, seconded by JC and passes unanimously.

Old Business:

Alison Thibodeau – LC looked into contacting her, but the telephone number she had was not in service. The bylaws say that in order to remove a Board Member there must be a vote by the Board with recommendation to the Mayor.

AB makes a motion to recommend to the Mayor that she be removed, seconded by GB, and passes unanimously.

LC will contact the Mayor and make a recommendation that someone from the minority population be appointed.

New Business:

Sr. Housing Update – A meeting has been scheduled for December 11, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. with Carol MacGown, ED and Board member John Boris regarding senior housing.

TA stated that at the last Board Meeting the Board asked about housing and Sharon Felton furnished a list which was given to the Board outlining State Public Housing,

Federal Public Housing and Section 8 housing. The list highlighted pending and eligible family, elderly and congregate applicants.

TA advised of a couple who frequents the Center and now on emergency housing list with a 3-6 month wait. She also advised how frustrated the social workers are with the housing situation,

JC asked what “pending” means and TA advised that those were ready to go and “eligible” means everybody who has applied. Section 8 housing is largely non-seniors and typically families.

TA further advised that she and LC went to the Salem for All Ages Leadership meeting and that the Mayor spoke regarding housing and acknowledged that the City was in crisis concerning housing. LC stated that there is a need for honest conversation about this at the meeting on December 11th and advised that John Boris was very willing to meet and discuss this. LC asked the Board to submit to her any questions or suggestions about what the Board should be pursuing in advance of the meeting.

AB suggested that MA is one of the few states to have public housing and suggested going to the meeting and talking to them about the Community Preservation Act which is framed in such a way where there is an allocation for money. AB suggested that we look at grants to support housing.

The Community Preservation Act states:

- Money can be used to offset people’s rent;
- If someone is on the waitlist, money could be used for temporary housing until permanent housing opens up.

LC questioned the difference between State and Federal housing. AB advised it was funding and that Federal grants are much easier to obtain.

No Friends Update as John Russell was absent from the meeting.

Director’s Report:

Friends sponsored the monthly breakfast in November. The next breakfast will be Wednesday, December 5th at a cost of \$3.00 per person and will be done by the staff at the Center. TA advised that the Friends subsidizes much of this. On the same day will be the annual Remembrance Ceremony.

Memory Café -- The first Memory Café was on November 1st and was a success. Monthly Memory Cafés will be held here on the first Thursday of each month with the next meeting on December 6th. Rosanna Donahue led the Timeslips storytelling method in Spanish since we are the only Spanish speaking café in the area. Rosanna and TA are

taking online training classes on the Timeslips storytelling method to engage people with various levels of forgetfulness. Mamadou Diop, the drumming instructor, was present and people in attendance were excited about the music and were dancing.

Salem for All Ages – Starting in the new year, the Center will host North Shore Physicians Group medical staff as speakers to discuss various topics i.e. fall prevention, diabetes education, physician services and behavioral health. These discussions will be geared to the entire community and not just seniors.

Housing Sub-Committee – Looking into home sharing models (senior able to stay in home but may need help with different jobs i.e. shoveling) and medical models and anticipating a home sharing education event in 2019.

North Shore Elder Services – The Center will be hosting a meeting on November 28th and 100 people are anticipated.

Social Services – From September 1st through October 31st 439 60+ seniors serviced 996 times and for those under 60, 23 people were serviced 52 times.

TA relayed that South Bay Mental Health will do home visits and the social work team refers to this organization when needed.

Transportation – New funding was started in October through the Title III grant from North Shore Elder Services. We are in the process of hiring a per diem driver. TA suggested asking Fred Norton to come to a Board meeting to give an overview regarding extended hours.

There was a discussion about My Senior Center. AB offered to help fix the problem i.e. location, height, getting a touch screen, mounting on a movable arm. TA advised that the City's Project Manager said it could not be relocated because of wiring in the walls and the WIFI not reliable. AB suggested getting the My Senior Center mobile app which right now has a \$300.00 onetime fee.

LC discussed the exercise classes currently being offered. She advised that currently people are being turned away because classes are full and suggested seeing what the demand is for additional classes TA responded that the programming staff is aware and we will see about funding additional classes in the new year, but that we will initiate registration and no walk-ins for the time being. First come, first serve with waitlisted people first on the list for the next session.

AW wanted to know how she goes about recommending a Spanish woman to become a Board member. LC advised that there was a process online, the Board does the vetting, and then it goes to the Mayor.

AB asked if the Center had any support staff who speak any languages other than Spanish. TA advised no.

There was a discussion about the Board socializing as a group. GB suggested after the New Year.

Next Board Meeting: December 19, 2018 which will also be the traditional holiday event. It was suggested that the Friends also be invited to the holiday event and asked to be here at 6:15 P.M. after the Board meeting concluded.

A motion to adjourn is made by EH, seconded by AB, and passes unanimously,

The meeting adjourns at 6:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Fitzgerald, Clerk