

DRAFT

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

Date and Time: September 19, 2018 at 5:24 P.M.

Meeting Location: Conference Room, 401 Bridge Street

Members Present: Lynda Coffill (LC, Chairperson), Julie Carver (JC, Secretary), Elaine Heredeen (EH, Vice Chair), Donna Clifford (DC), Alice Williams (AW), and John Russell (JR)

Members Absent: George Barbuzzi (GB), Alison Thibodeau (AT) and Abigail Butt (AB)

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

Clerk: Kathleen Fitzgerald

Meeting Called to Order

LC calls the meeting to order at 5:24 P.M.

Motion made by EH to approve the May Minutes, seconded by JC and passes unanimously.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Senior Housing. LC – Now that we were able to advocate for a third social worker, we can turn our attention to advocating for more senior housing. Pioneer Terrace and Lee Ft. Terrace are both one floor. Perhaps we can build on that. The issue is how we are going to work with the Salem Housing Authority to make that happen.

TA -- I am now the Chair of the Housing Sub-Committee and AB is also on that committee. If anyone would like to sit on that committee, please let me know. Hopefully this committee can be effective. It will meet on the third Thursday of every month at 3:00 P.M. here at the Community Life Center starting next month. Amanda Chiancola from the Planning Department is working on the scope of work to look at home share activities, i.e. students with elders, etc., maybe have a housing fair to look at ways to make housing more accessible.

LC – Last Spring you met with Carol, Mayor Driscoll and Sharon concerning housing. Did it go anywhere?

TA – Not particularly. North Shore Elder Services has some case managers in place in some of the buildings. We would love to see more of that but their resources only go so far. I would like to see a part time social worker here to deal with this. The big issue, of course, is not enough affordable housing.

LC – How about if I, as Chairperson of this Board, write a letter to John Boris and ask if we could have a joint meeting on how to work on affordable housing in the City.

LC – The Haunted Happenings Parade is on October 4th at 6:30 P.M. Who wants to do this event? We walk and hold our banner and wear our shirts. JC and DC agreed to participate and AW said she would participate if possible.

Director's Report:

Social Services – Sharon is on vacation. Hiring of Joe Ericksberg was a great decision and thank you for your support on that. Joe is working out beautifully. He is a very compassionate young man. His office is located next to the Veterans' Office and he has a nice relationship with them.

We have been working with the Farm Direct Co-Op this summer and have had free fruits and vegetables. This is self-declaring. We will be working in conjunction with the Greater Boston Food Bank starting on October 1st. They have surplus food and we will have to go to the Danvers Council on Aging until we have fifty (50) participants. Sharon is spear-heading this. This, too, is self-declaring.

Transportation – This continues to grow and it has been over a year with extended hours. We are beginning to see more people becoming members so we anticipate more rides over time. It is forecasted that membership will grow by 250%. It is predicted that we will have provided 1,300 rides by the end of September. We are seeing more seniors needing rides to work for part time employment. Fred and I will sit down after the Grand Opening to talk about the anticipated ride schedule.

AW asked how many drivers are employed. TA advised that presently there are 6 and that we are interviewing for another. TA also advised that she would like to concentrate over the course of this year to advocate for one to two full time drivers and a part time dispatcher and would like to bring transportation up a click over the course of the year.

LC – we are also going to look at raising salaries.

TA advised that we were going to look at it across the board and advised that we were able to give Lynn and Sharon a bit over the standard two percent. She also stated that she wants to look at Fred's position.

TA advised that there was a Mass Council on Aging Conference later in October in Falmouth and she and Joe Ericksberg would be attending.

TA said they reached out to Chris Hamilton to obtain the cost of second “My Senior Center” to be located upstairs.

TA advised that another intern, Brunilda, a SSU student, will be helping here with outreach and special projects.

TA spoke about the Grand Opening and said they anticipated over 700 people attending and that the Mayor had post cards sent about the event to all 55+ seniors informing them of the Grand Opening. She advised that there would be a police detail and expanded parking to accommodate the amount of people. Representative Tucker and Senator Lovely and chairs of various boards would be recognized. There would be a reception and cash bar on both floors and she advised that the Mayor had given the Center \$5,000.00 for the event.

TA let the Board know that there would be a Community Open House on September 22nd with dozens of organizations having resource tables. There would be games and family events and a pop-up library. JR advised the Friends would have a table and would be accepting donations. He advised that Frank Ryan had created a fact sheet and would have that to show people to help them understand what the Friends do and it also would be a good opportunity to see if people are interested because they needed some different perspectives.

There was discussion about the fitness room and JR advised he was working with Marcus Cole, Recreation Assistant and that everyone had to go through a training program and are looking for volunteers to help out.

There was discussion about the cost over-runs and JR pointed out that the original budget was prepared over eight years ago.

LC wanted to recognize John Russell who has represented this Board on committees, TA who has worked very hard and JC who has been part of the planning. TA wanted to recognize Trish O’Brien who has worked tirelessly on the Center.

LC advised that next month is the Annual Meeting as well as the monthly Board Meeting and asked if a nominating committee was needed and everyone agreed to keep the Board as it is with the same officers. The Annual Meeting will start at 5:15 P.M. and the Board Meeting at 5:45 P.M.

EH asked what was going to happen with the old building at 5 Broad Street. TA advised she was unsure, but assumed condos.

Next Board Meeting and Annual Meeting: October 17, 2018

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

The meeting adjourns at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Fitzgerald, Clerk