

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – March 9, 2016

Board Members present: Pat Gold, Carol Airasian, Dorothy Jean Brown, and Alice Wadden.

Board Members Excused: Mary Keenan, V.V. Martin, Linda Moffitt, Burt Greenberg, and Bertha Anderson.

Staff Member present: Debbie Dunn

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm.

1. The Board Members reviewed the minutes from the February meeting. Dorothy Jean Brown made a motion to approve and Carol Airasian seconded. Passed

2. Financial Statements:

Debbie highlighted areas from the financial statements. All accounts have sufficient funds for the remainder of the fiscal year. Money was used from the Revolving Fund to help with the cost of taxi rides while the bus and driver have been out. Seniors can use the taxi service once a week and we encourage them to go with a friend to help defray costs. The Food Pantry continues to receive donations.

3. Program Statistics for 2015:

Board members went through the 2015 program attendance numbers. It was noted that some programs run for a specific amount of time, which is why the yearly number can be low. Zumba Gold, which started the middle of October, is off to a great start. Some numbers in the first quarter are low due to the stormy weather.

4. Bus Driver Update:

Our bus driver, Joe Cavallaro, will be reinstated. He has done very well and is excited about returning. The Shuttle Bus travels a fixed route through Watertown to take seniors food shopping on Tuesday and Fridays, and to the Watertown and Arsenal Malls on the second and fourth Wednesday each month.

5. Yard Sale:

The Senior Center will not have a yard sale this year. We are short staffed and many of our volunteers are not able to help this year. There is a lot of work involved in having the yard sale from publicity, finances, sorting, moving, and storing items as they come in as well as setting up the day before and then cleaning the gym afterwards and carrying everything left out to the bus and cars to be donated somewhere else. Alternative ideas for fundraising were discussed, among which is a Paint Night, Flower Arranging workshop, Restaurant Nights, and an Antique Roadshow.

6. Pat Gold attended two meetings of the Town Council. A.) The taking away of parking spaces from people who buy condos has been removed as the Town attorney said it is not feasible and not legal.

B.) At the Town Council meeting there was no mention of the meeting to be held at the Coolidge School on Monday, March 28th sponsored by Watertown For All Ages to help shape the future of programs and services for older adults by discussing the leadership skills and qualifications of its new director. The subject was given to the committee on human services. Pat Gold told the Town Council that she and the COA Board and staff should have been informed of the meeting.

C.) It was decided by Board members unanimously that all messages to the Board should come through the COA office and then sent to them.

7. Board member Alice Wadden spoke about a Belmont, Watertown, Waltham, Tri Community Homeless Forum to be held at St. Joseph's Church on Sunday, April 24, 2016. She will bring in flyers when they become available.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Submitted by Deborah A Dunn