

Watertown Council on Aging

SENIOR CENTER

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PATRICIA GOLD, Chairperson

CARYL LESLIE FOX

MARIE MORELLO, Vice-Chairperson

Director of Senior Services

Minutes of C.O.A. Board Meeting – October 15, 2008

Present: Pat Gold, Marie Morello, Jane Stadolnik, Betty Finnell, Mary Keenan, Dottie Fleming, Will Twombly, and Hagop Sarkissian.

Members Excused Absence: Chris Hursh.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairperson Pat Gold, who introduced Hagop Sarkissian.
2. The minutes of the September meeting were read by the members of the Board. Dottie Fleming made a motion to approve and Betty Finnell seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:
Board members reviewed the September financial statements. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve and Marie Morello seconded. Passed.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. A thank you note was written to Debbie Dunn for running wonderful trips.
 - b. Caryl fox received a thank-you note from a member of the Rotary Club for participating in the new Watertown Community Foundation task force.

c. Project Bread / The Walk for Hunger awarded a \$7,700 grant to the Food Pantry.

d. The US Treasury department sent material promoting direct deposit of social security checks.

e. The Assessor's department gave brochures to the Center about real estate Property Tax exemptions.

f. There is a new multi-language resource map of Watertown.

g. A new disaster preparedness guide has been issued by the Red Cross. Caryl Fox has ordered additional copies for the Center.

5. Staff Reports:

Caryl Fox attended the monthly Emergency Management Coalition meeting. Kathleen Wolf is now also a member of this group. She is also on a subcommittee, as is Laura Gold. Caryl Fox distributed the Property Tax Work-off forms to department heads and applications will be given to interested seniors in October. Ms. Fox had received information on the cost of installing seat belts in the Senior Shuttle. The Board discussed this issue and the consensus was that they should be installed during FY '09. Betty Finnell made a motion to revise the capital improvement FY '09 budget to include the cost of seat belts. Some items currently on the list would be postponed to later years. Will Twombly second the motion. Passed unanimously. The staff reports were accepted by acclamation.

6. Old Business:

a. Springwell Update:

Statistics were distributed to Board members showing the number of Watertown clients using each Springwell service. Springwell has a new pilot program to utilize volunteers as escorts and advocates to medical appointments. They also are putting together a new staff committee that will link clients with resources during difficult economic times.

b. Senior Center HVAC Update:

The baseboard heating has finally been restored, but there is still a problem with the overhead heat in the front part of the building. Caryl Fox has called the contractor and he will send a mechanic to check the system.

c. Quarterly Attendance Numbers:

The exercise classes showed an increase in attendance. The usage of the Marshall Home Taxi Program increased during this quarter, as well. Board members also had the yearly Watertown Food Pantry statistics for their review.

7. New Business:

a. Emergency Assistance Options:

Caryl Fox is attending meetings of the newly formed Watertown Community Foundation task force. The group is concerned about people in Watertown facing increased financial difficulties in these uncertain economic times.

b. Discussion of State Ballot Question 1:

Chairperson, Pat Gold, led a discussion among Board members about the ballot question and the consequences for the state and for towns related to its passage

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox