

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 – January 14, 2009

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

Members Excused Absence: Will Twombly and Hagop Sarkissian.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairperson Pat Gold.
2. The December minutes were read by Board members. A typographical error was noted. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected and Dottie Fleming seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:

The statements for the previous month were reviewed. Caryl Fox noted that the line items are positioned well for the half-way point of the fiscal year. She is watching the Emergency Assistance line item carefully. Marie Morello made a motion to approve and Betty Finnell seconded. Passed.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. Barbara Zenn Rediker sent a note to the Friends along with her donation.
 - b. Kathleen Wolf received an email from a senior thanking her for scheduling the MBTA program in February.
 - c. The Marshall Home Fund will send out an evaluation form concerning the Taxi Grant program.
 - d. Project Bread has a new brochure for seniors applying for Food Stamps.
 - e. There are flyers at the Center advertising census jobs.

5. Staff Reports:

The phones for the department are going to be replaced next month. The current ones are from when the building opened and are in poor condition. Caryl Fox submitted information on the COA/Senior Center for a newcomer's guide that the Town will be publishing. Lectures in December included financial/legal topics and the Health Department's presentation on preventing falls. Laura Gold has been working on two complicated cases involving alcohol abuse. The reports were accepted by acclamation.

6. Old Business:

a. Springwell Update:

The Warren St. meal site that was open once a week has been closed by Springwell due to low attendance. The nearby 55 Waverly Ave. location serves lunch seven days a week. State funding cuts reduced home care slots. Springwell hasn't reduced any current client services, but a managed intake system has been put in place.

b. Fuel Assistance Program Updates:

The state increased the amount that individuals can earn annually to qualify for fuel assistance. In January, the Salvation Army's Good Neighbor Program begins, providing some assistance to those who don't qualify for the other program.

7. New Business:

a. Quarterly Attendance Numbers:

The Board reviewed the attendance numbers. Art, exercise, line dancing, WOW and bingo all had increased attendance. Caryl Fox noted that programs were impacted by the cold, snow, and ice that prevailed for much of December.

b. FY '10 Budget:

The budget, which included level service and level dollar scenarios, was examined by Board members. Caryl Fox explained that there is a possibility that further cuts could be required. Ms. Fox has a meeting with the Town Manager concerning the budget next week. There was discussion among Board members about asking for an additional dollar donation from seniors as of July 1, 2009 for some programs and classes. The money would be deposited into the Revolving Fund or into COA Donations. Pat Gold made a motion to add a dollar to exercise, yoga, and tai chi in addition to the art, line dancing, and computer classes under consideration. Dottie Fleming seconded the motion. Passed.

c. Mary Keenan reminded Caryl Fox that for individuals in need of additional fuel assistance funding, we can apply to the Marshall Home Fund. Ms. Keenan also suggested that hearing and dental screeners can refer seniors who need work but can't afford it to the case worker. The case worker can apply for assistance through the Marshall Home Fund.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox