

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 – February 11, 2009

Present: Marie Morello, Mary Keenan, and Will Twombly.

Members Excused Absence: Pat Gold, Jane Stadolnik, Dottie Fleming, Betty Finnell, and Hagop Sarkissian.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Vice-Chairperson Marie Morello.
2. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Board members. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve the minutes and Will Twombly seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:

The January financial statements were reviewed. Caryl Fox noted that FY '09 purchase orders for all departments now have to be approved by the Town Auditor and Purchasing Agent. This change will be in effect during the balance of FY '09 and is because of a decrease in anticipated local aid from the state and an increase in the snow and ice budget. Will Twombly made a motion to approve and Mary Keenan seconded. Passed.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. Kathleen Wolf received a thank you email from a senior who she helped get our newsletter on line.
 - b. Caryl Fox wrote a note of support for a hosing grant application concerning Watertown seniors sponsored by the Planning Department and Watertown Community Housing.

- c. New informational brochures on Social Security and Medicare are available at the Senior Center.
5. Staff Reports:

Caryl Fox wrote the 2008 Annual Report for the department and Kathleen Wolf submitted the photographs. The new telephones finally arrived and are in use by staff. Caryl Fox called DPW about a large recycling bin, which will help us dispose of recycling paper products that accumulate in the blue baskets. A six week class on dealing with chronic conditions and health has been very successful. The program was sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation and funded by Springwell. Laura Gold worked with individuals coping with various issues including loneliness, alcoholism, and financial and housing difficulties. The reports were accepted by acclamation.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Springwell Update:

Springwell was not cut in the second round of state reductions for FY '09. It was cut substantially earlier resulting in lay-offs in the nutrition department and a waiting list for new clients needing homecare services.
 - b. EOEIA Formula Grant FY '09 and FY '10 Updates:

The EOEIA Formula Grant for this year (FY '09) will be what we originally budgeted for when we did the budget last spring. In FY '10, an increase is proposed, but it is likely we will be level-funded (and hopefully not cut). The grant funds part of four of our part-time salaries.
 - c. FY '10 Budget:

Caryl Fox met with the Town Manager and Town Auditor concerning the level service and level dollar budget that all departments were required to submit. It is likely that the level dollar (same amounts as the current year for each line item) is the more likely scenario.
7. New Business:
 - a. Income Tax Program 2009

The tax assistance program will be offered at the Senior Center from early February through mid- April. This AARP sponsored project uses volunteers who are trained by the IRS. It's a popular service for Watertown seniors and appointments will be available four afternoons per week.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox