

Council on Aging Minute

November 15, 2022

Meeting called to order at: 1:06PM

Attendance: Deb Lanou, Jim Whitcomb, Betty Whitcomb, Judie Tate, Meg Livingstone, Tony Stavely, Colleen Letourneau, Debby Wiesen Kelly

Guest: Peter Vearling of Northfield

Minutes: Board discussed and made an update to the minutes. Judie made a motion to accept the minutes and Meg seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Erin, the Town Treasurer gave Betty a more complete printout of expenditures and revenue. We over spent in the seminars line item. It was Ok with the Town Administrator. There was a discrepancy with the Breakfast and Lunch Fund. The Formula Grant of \$12,000 was added to the budget. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs is the vessel for the formula grant and disburses fees at the rate of \$12 per elder based on the 2010 census. Now, it will use the 2020 census which includes significantly more elders (adding approximately \$3000) and there is no penalty if the formula fund isn't used. It will rollover to the next year. The money can be used for programs or support for seniors in the "catch areas" such as the Recognition Event for Volunteers or the exercise grant. The yoga instructor can receive higher pay but, not before the next grant cycle. LifePath grant pays for the Yoga class plus donations. Colleen mentioned we can pay for the Yoga class from gift fund too. Also, Colleen said as long as funds can be traced to a program for seniors, it can be used. Deb made a motion to accept the report. Jim seconded the motion. The report was unanimously accepted. (Debby suggested that Colleen increase the line item for training and seminars. Colleen mentioned that we get discounts if member of associations.)

Chair report: Deb Lanou (No Bylaw report on the agenda)

Policies and Procedures:

Other things to consider section:

- Liaison position is an observer and can only offer a personal opinion (only exception- the CPC committee liaison votes)
- Don't offer opinions under the guise of speaking for the board – liaison shall not speak on behalf of the board unless approved by the board or board Chair
- Invite potential new council members to board meetings
- If you can't attend , notify board chair
- If Member can't attend 3 consecutive meetings there is a consequence (unless medical excuse) (bylaw article 6 section 7)
- Jim reviewed the CoA Board Matrix – useful information for new board member
- Deb mentioned that she is recruiting new members to the board and plans to ask 2 new candidates to the next board meeting. Keep on recruiting!

- **CPC report:** Meeting on November 16, 2022. Funding sources pertain to low income housing and senior housing (may or may not be low income). There is an educational meeting to explain how and when to apply for a CPA grants. Grant applications for the CPA funds are due on January 15, 2023.
- AARP/LifePath will share the results of the Northfield Age and Dementia Friendly Survey results at the Senior Center on December 20th at 2:15pm. There will be a focus group to talk about a five year plan based on what Northfield seniors want and need. There will be additional stakeholder meetings to discuss how to age in place comfortably in Northfield. We will select a few projects that AARP/LifePath will support. As examples, we can identify grants to increase transportation and broadband. There will be subcommittees to focus on implementation plans.
- American Disabilities Grant- hearing loss loop grant submitted for the senior center, select board room, and the library with the intention to increase access for hearing impaired people. There is a suggestion to bring in an audiologist to offer hearing tests at the senior center. This is a perfect project for the Age and Dementia Friendly initiative too. Pending grant approval.

Program Update-

- Souper Social Congregate Luncheon in November had a full house. There is a Souper Social for December.
- Monthly Greenfield Bank Coffee Socials continue
- Art Classes – pop up classes continue
- Happy Feet – 10:30 -12:00 walks for adults and Happy Little Feet – an intergenerational walking program with kindergarten children who will also participate in 350th celebration
- New MCOA'S Strategic Planning Document, Maureen O'leary, Consultant. New manuals to follow. May ask for a donation from Friends for the Emergency Dept. at Cooley Dickinson Hospital. The money would go towards a geriatric care-lev 3 emergency room. The donation is in memory of the deceased co-author of the MCOA Strategic Plan.
- Newsletter articles – Friends of Northfield Seniors will write articles. David Kelly, the new treasurer will write the next article.

Legislative update: S2848 Supportive Decision Making- support alternative guardianship – includes people with dementia who may make their own decisions with support, H42919 –Step Therapy for prescriptions (start with generic) - limits use of step therapy

Neighbors at Home: Neighbors president had a stroke. Appointed a vice president. Tony distributed refrigerator magnets. Tony explains the mission and history of the Friends.

Friends of Northfield of CoA: David Kelly is the new treasurer and Pam Eldridge is now a Director. The current balance in the bank is \$1849.75. Friends wants to raise money for the upcoming initiatives.

Motion to adjourn by Judie. The motion was seconded by Tony. Meeting adjourned at 2:37pm.

Approved date: 12/20/2022

Approved by: Debby Wain Kelly