

**Northampton Council on Aging
Board Minutes
2/22/18**

Present: Linda Desmond, Bob Montague, Mary Lastowski, Lorraine Weimann, Donna Park, Marlene Marrocco, John Kaczinski Jr., Barbara Fungaroli, Kathy Pekala Service, Casey Fowler, Deborah Epstein, Gerriann Butler, Heather Cahillane, Kathy Bowler from MCOA.

Excused: Mark NeJame

Absent: James Spencer, Theresa Dunn

Public Session – No one from the public was present.

Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

- Robert Montague called the meeting to at 1:30 PM.
- Motion made by Marlene Marrocco, seconded by Mary Lastowski, to approve the 1/11/18 minutes as written. Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Old Business

1. **Name Change Proposal (Continued Discussion):** Marlene had brought up the proposal of a change in name for the Senior Center. Marlene spoke to the Mayor and he said he doesn't want any changes until the new Director is on board. Kathy Bowler from MCOA came to assist the Board in this discussion. She brought marketing info and tools. In the Marketing Tools book, there are some materials that can help. She said to consider what your image is in the community and what you are trying to portray. The programming offered is very important. Look at it as a whole and consider all the elements. Some Senior Centers who have changed their name have changed it back. There are about 349 Senior Centers in the State and about 75% of them use Senior Center in their name.
2. **Update on Mary's Bistro:** Heather said the Bistro is doing well. Mass Appeal invited her to do a cooking segment. Two graduations of chefs happened today. One is coming back to volunteer. A suggestion box was put out in the Bistro. A suggestion from the Board was made to start a delivery service. It was also suggested to possibly have a part time person for the Bistro. There is a volunteer who is working on food cost charts. Nutrition information can be plugged in as well.
3. **ElderVision-Friends Group:** Elder Vision doing well. They have money to spend. They are trying to find ways to spend it. The piano needs a key. Trips & Travel account is being used too. Any suggestions for uses for the money let Bob Montague know. We need signs for additional parking.
4. **Northampton Neighbors:** Northampton Neighbors has about 350 members now. 60 vetted volunteers. Going well. Filling a gap in Northampton. A lot of professional people are in it. They use the Wellness Center sometimes. Any connection with HVES yet?
5. **Writers Conference:** Defunct because six people pulled out. No reason we can't do it next year. Literary café with six local authors is coming up in the area. Deborah Epstein will get information.
6. **EARN:** Doing well. Over 40 people at last meeting. Senior Aide Program was at last meeting. People in the business community are calling us with positions. Ford hired one of the EARN members. There is a need for part time jobs for EARN Members. Marlene Marrocco offered to help with resumes, etc. Leadership committee meets monthly. Trainings every other month. Info on the schedule is in the Conz Street Chronicle.
7. **Gift Shop:** Heather said the Gift Shop is pretty cleared out. Now the committee will rework the room. We will sell cards out of there and will also centralize information in there. It will become a welcome/information center and will be staffed with a person to help. They will keep the shelves.

8. **UMASS Interns:** Kinesiology students at UMASS will be at the Health Fair. Would like to have them in the Fitness Center when it is not covered. They can also do some testing.
9. **St. Patrick's Day Dinner:** Will be held Sunday, March 11th. Chef Barb & John will cook Corned Beef and Cabbage. 11:30-1:30. Volunteers to show up at 10:30am. Cost in town \$10; \$15 out of town.
10. **Elms College nursing intern:** One nursing intern. Cooley Dickinson portal. Portal in process.

Highland Valley Elder Services Report by Kathryn Pekala Service

Kathy said Allen has a great management team. Board Members have a great skill set. New ombudsman hired who has helpful experience behind him in elder services.

New Business

1. **Health Fair May 10th:** Will be held May 10th at Senior Center. Letters and invitations have been sent out. We are starting to receive applications for booths. Suggestion to have an age/dementia friendly booth.
2. **Transportation Update:** Two tax work off people are helping with dispatch. Hoping to have a ten hour person to help with dispatch. Bruce resigned.
3. **Fitness Center:** Bringing in new members. There was maintenance and repair recently as well as an evaluation of all equipment. Gerriann Butler said we need someone to wipe down and clean the machines as they are dusty. There should be a routine to clean the machines. We need someone to clean the floor in the Great Room after the Market on Saturday.
4. **United Way Grant:** We are submitting an application for the grant with the intent to redo program prices and bump up scholarships. Right now, 70/30 split with instructors. Heather would like to try to even out pricing of classes. Trying to make it more affordable for everyone. We will use the grant to subsidize programming.

Other Business

1. Signage: Need to do something about a sign for additional parking. Hopefully, by next meeting it will be done. Marlene suggested Porcupine Sign. Need to ask WWII Club first. Also, potholes on Smith Ave. are very bad. We will call the City to fix.
2. February Heart Health month. Deborah Epstein brought up having signs, literature.
3. Business Cards: They were ordered and were passed out.
4. Dementia Friendly: Kathy Service will be in touch with next steps.
5. Let's Keep Moving workshops on Monday, March 12th from 4-6pm. Many organizations will be here to show seniors the options available for exercise.
6. Easthampton Senior Sentinel: Donna likes the format of it.

Adjourning the meeting

Barbara Fungaroli made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Gerriann Butler seconded it at 2:55 PM. Motion was unanimously approved.

Announcements

- **Next NCOA Board Meeting:** Thursday, March 15th, 2018 at 1:30 at the Northampton Senior Center (change in date due to Linda being away on the 8th.)

Respectfully submitted by _____
Linda R. DeMercurio