

Northampton Council on Aging Board Minutes 4/12/18

Present: Bob Montague, Mary Lastowski, Lorraine Weimann, Donna Park, Marlene Marrocco, John Kaczinski Jr., Gerriann Butler, Kathy Pekala Service, Casey Fowler, Barbara Fungaroli, Diane Porcella

Excused:

Absent: Deborah Epstein, Mark NeJame

- Robert Montague called the meeting to at 1:30 PM.

Public Session – There were several members from the public here to discuss their disappointment that Heather Cahillane was not hired as Director. Each presented their comments and reasoning to the Board. Bob Montague pointed out that there were two members of the Board on the committee to make recommendations to the Mayor. Heather was one of those recommended to the Mayor. Marlene Marrocco said the Board as an Advisory Board was not represented in the committee. A discussion ensued between the Board members regarding this topic. Kathy Service and Bob Montague were on the Committee and said that there were 30 candidates. HR narrowed the field of qualified candidates down to twelve. Then the committee narrowed the field down to eight and interviewed the top four candidates. Heather was included in those and her name was sent to the Mayor along with the other three. Marlene suggested that Board Members attend the City Council Meetings on April 23 and May 3 to voice their opinions. Four Board Members gave Bob Montague their letter of resignation – Marlene Marrocco, John Kaczinski Jr., Lorraine Weimann and Barbara Fungaroli. Bob said he will pass it on to the Mayor.

Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

- Motion made by Gerriann Butler, seconded by Kathy Pekala Service, to approve the 3/15/18 minutes as written. Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Introduction of the new Director

Marie Westburg was introduced to the Board and she introduced herself and spoke.

Old Business

1. **Update on Mary's Bistro:** The Bistro is doing well. Gerriann asked if Mary's Bistro will still be open. Michele Dihlmann said she will be speaking with the Sheriff's Office.
2. **ElderVision-Friends Group:** Bob Montague said Elder Vision received the \$2200 check from Florence Bank. It is ear-marked for the Volunteer Recognition Dinner.
3. **Northampton Neighbors:** Diane Porcella, the new coordinator who replaced Adele, came in to speak to the Board. She said Northampton Neighbors is a volunteer organization whose mission is to keep seniors in their homes and help them with what they need done. They provide anything from transportation to changing light bulbs.
4. **EARN:** EARN held an Updating Your Job Interviewing Skills Workshop on Wednesday April 11 at 9:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. The workshop was facilitated by staff from the Franklin Hampshire Career Center and the RSVP program in Northampton. They are also having a Job Fair in May.

Highland Valley Elder Services Report by Kathryn Pekala Service

Kathy Pekala Service said they are working hard to make sure programs are operational. Allen has good ideas. Kathy as a Board Member works on committees. There is a new person as the director of the ombudsman program.

New Business

1. **Health Fair May 10th:** It will be held May 10th at Senior Center. Michele is working on the fair. Michele will be working on programs for the fair. The food will be done by the Bistro that day. We will have volunteer runners again for the vendors to get their lunch. Vendors can set up the night before.

Other Business

1. Election of officers of the Board will be held in June. Positions are Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. Nominations are at May's meeting. Gerriann will run for Chair. Kathy Pekala Service will run as Secretary/Treasurer. If anyone else would want to run, please let Linda DeMercurio know or bring it up at the May meeting. Bob Montague said he would run as Vice Chair if no one else runs.
2. Gerriann Butler said she will bring in a sign regarding service animals that is ADA approved.
3. Donna Park suggested in renewing the Winter Market contract that we ask them to clean the floors after, possibly wet mop them, and then have the building monitor inspect it before they leave.
4. Bob Kies is also retiring and they asked if we were having a party for him. His last day is June 1st. We said we were sure we would but we hadn't discussed it yet.
5. It was discussed to have the next Board Meeting on Thursday, May 17th, since the Health & Safety Fair is the 10th.

Adjourning the meeting

Kathy Pekala Service made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Gerriann Butler seconded it at 2:28 PM. Motion was unanimously approved.

Announcements

- **Next NCOA Board Meeting:** Thursday, May 17th, 2018 at 1:30 at the Northampton Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted by _____
Linda R. DeMercurio