

# Northampton Council on Aging Meeting Minutes 10/11/18

At the Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street, Northampton

**Present:** Kathie Bredin, Gerriann Butler, Deborah Epstein, Michael Ford, Casey Fowler, Jeanne Henry Hoose, Cynthia Langley, Mary Lastowski, Bob Montague, Donna Park, Jean Petty, Marie Westburg, Jennifer Carbery, Michele Dihlmann

**Excused:** Kathy Pekala Service, Dennis Helmus

**Absent:** Mark NeJame

- Gerriann Butler called the meeting to at 3:35 PM.

**Public Session** – Stanley Moran was present. He praised the price of lunches at the Bistro. He said the BINGO machine has a problem with it. It is a good effort to open two nights and Saturday mornings. For those who need more socialization, he suggests opening longer.

**Staff Reports:** Jennifer Carbery, Transportation Coordinator, discussed the statistics of the transportation program. Michele Dihlmann, Social Worker, discussed programs to assist seniors with Medicare, food programs, fuel assistance, etc.

## **Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

- A motion was made by Bob Montague and seconded by Donna Park, to approve the 9/13/18 minutes as written. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Review and Vote on Policy Committee's revisions of the Code of Conduct Policy and COA By-Laws:**

The Council asked that the Code of Conduct listings be updated to sound more welcoming and positive and less punitive. Jean Hoose suggested streamlining them by combining some of the points; for example, she thought #2, 3, and 13 could be combined. The Council Members wanted it to go back to the committee and be reviewed again. A suggestion was made to make a statement about what we value and then bulletpoint the issues. Council Members were asked to please attend the policy meeting to discuss their ideas.

**By Laws:** There was a discussion about the By-Laws. The vote could not be taken since there needs to be more discussion on serving ages 55-59. Marie needs to do some research and will bring it to the next meeting.

- ### **2. Discussion of Requirements by funders, current services to non-seniors, programming for 55-59 year olds and inter-generational opportunities:**
- A definition of serve was brought up. Some programs like Brown Bag serve all ages. The By-Laws say we have to serve ages 60 and over. Seniors 60 and over need to take priority. A suggestion was made to find out what other senior centers have done and how they have dealt with this issue. Marie will do that and bring it back to next mtg. Then the By-Laws must be posted again.

**Elder Vision Report:** Bob Montague said they changed their meetings to once every other month. Marie asked for funding to pay for a celebration for the pilot launch of extended hours. Marie asked Elder Vision for funds to pay for lunch on the van trip program. Elder Vision will discuss at their next meeting. Marie is hoping fundraising can happen through Elder Vision. Elder Vision will need to devise the fund raiser and then come to the Council Members to ask for their help.

## **Highland Valley Elder Services Report by Kathryn Pekala Service**

Kathy Pekala Service was absent, so there was no report given.

### **New Business**

1. **Assistant Director's Report: Volunteer Recruitment and Trainings, Arts and Culture Committee and Policy Review Committee:** Kim Park gave a report on Volunteer Recruitment. She has added 7 new volunteers. Kim reactivated other volunteers who were previously working in the Bistro. Please let Kim know if you know of anyone who would like to volunteer. Kim has instituted a monthly training for receptionists and she is revising the volunteer manual. There is one person on the Arts and Culture committee so far. Kim's groups are focus groups on procedures as opposed to policy.
2. **Director's Report: PR and Chronicle updates, Financial Aid Fund, Annual Appeal and gift fund solicitation in Chronicle, Capital Improvement Request, Donation from Cedar Chest, EOE A Report, Cultural Arts Grant, developments around being a site for Arts Night Out and collaborations with the Downtown Northampton Association:** Marie noted that the Conz Street Chronicle is changing. The fund for Wellness grants was approved by City Council. Currently, the criteria are based on SNAP Guidelines. The Annual Appeal will be run as usual. Marie has requested Capital Improvements for the building with the City. Cedar Chest has given us a large donation which can be used for a fund raiser. Marie has asked for an extension on the EOE A Report. We will be holding a Trunk or Treat. The furniture in lobby has been rearranged to promote more socialization. The tables in the lobby can be used for games. Some of the other new classes are cooking classes, karaoke and increasing the movies to a weekly movie as opposed to monthly.
3. A survey was given out in the Bistro to ask who would have lunch if we expanded the hours. Reviews were mixed - some would come more often, some would not. There will be no programming on Election Day. We will provide transportation to those who need it to vote.
4. A comment was made to make the Senior Center more multicultural. Marie is talking to Kevin about some different food ideas. People gather around food. The Senior Center will collaborate with Community Read. Marie has been meeting with Forbes Library.

### **Other Business**

1. No additional business was submitted.

### **Adjourning the meeting**

Bob Montague made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Michael Ford seconded it at 5:09 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Announcements**

- **Next NCOA Board Meeting:** Thursday, November 8th, 2018, at 3:30 at the Northampton Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda R. DeMercurio