

WALLINGFORD COMMITTEE ON AGING, INC.

April 16, 2021

MINUTES OF MEETING

ATTENDANCE: Karen Anderson, Anne Bernick, Tom Daly, Rosemary DeAngelis, Rocco DiGenova, Jane Fisher, Alberta Flynn, Susan Gomes, Ronald Graziani, Audrey Grove, Tara Knapp, Carolyn Massoni (guest), Karin Pyskaty (guest), John Rankin and William Viola

EXCUSED: Steven Allinson, Evangeline Bourgeois, Tom Finn, and Glenn Havumaki

ABSENT:

President Tom Daly called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

William Viola welcomed new board members Susan Gomes, Audrey Grove and Tara Knapp, as well as returning former member John Rankin and also acknowledged new President Tom Daly and Vice-President Alberta Flynn. He noted the attendance of outgoing board members Karin Pyskaty and Carolyn Massoni and expressed great appreciation for their service to the board and the senior center.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

President Tom Daly asked if there were any additions or corrections to the March 19, 2021 Secretary's Report.

Rosemary DeAngelis made a motion to accept the March Secretary's Report as presented. Ron Graziani seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Tara Knapp abstaining.

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 2021 Operating Account Report

Treasurer Ron Graziani reported for the month of March 2021. Receipts are \$615,613 which is \$37,112 below the budgeted amount of \$652,725. Expenditures are \$504,476 which is \$148,249 below the budgeted amount. This results in a net positive of \$111,137.

Anne Bernick made a motion to accept the March Operating Account Report. John Rankin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

March 2021 Program Account Report

Program Director Karen Anderson reported that activity is increasing and there is some revenue starting to come in but expenses will also increase with instructor payments. Classes are still at half capacity, and although registrations are increasing there is still some folks who are fearful of returning. A couple bus trips are being offered for late summer and fall. Once the building opens up more including Lake View Café, more people will come in to sign up and revenue will increase.

Ron Graziani made a motion to accept the March Program Account Report. Alberta Flynn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Tom Daly asked that the Consent Agenda be accepted.

Tara Knapp made a motion to accept the March Consent Agenda. Jane Fisher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director

ED Bill Viola reported that he conducted orientation to the board and the center for the three new members, Susan Gomes, Tara Knapp and Audrey Groves. He reviewed the weekend after the previous meeting in which he responded to several alarms at the center including a problem with the walk-in freezer caused by a rat who was caught in the fan blade of the outside condensing unit; then a further problem with the thermostat, with another due to a false alarm from the Memory Lane motion detector. Public Works has now removed all the globes on the hanging light fixtures in the Great Room for safety reasons after one fell and shattered unexpectedly. Building Architect Sam Sargeant reports that the globes are no longer available and is looking at potential replacements. Revised and approved Personnel Policies Procedures Manuals were distributed to all staff and signed acknowledgements are on file. Three WSC Bus Drivers were randomly selected for drug and alcohol testing through the program that the center participates in and all passed the tests as expected. All drivers are tested upon hire and are all subject to random and post-accident testing as part of this program. Quinnipiac University student volunteers came out for their "Big Event" Day to clean out our Agnes Campos Memorial Butterfly Garden which was constructed in 2005, by Roman Mrozinsky in memory of his mother. Joining the 9 students, along with Roman and myself, were garden club members Donna Bush, Martha & Jim Shea, plus Master Gardiner Ellie Tessmer. Everyone worked hard, the garden looks great although some bushes need to be replaced and the four giant piles of removed debris were then picked up by DPW on Tuesday. Still looking into possible installation of pickle ball courts but having trouble finding a responsive vendor. Tara Knapp reported that the vendor who installed pickle ball courts at Gaylord was excellent and will forward contact information to ED Viola.

Program Director

Program Director Karen Anderson reported that gym membership is up slightly and fitness classes have begun. There is an outdoor picnic and concert scheduled this month. Golf sign ups seem to be going strong and we are seeing more female golfers this year. Program Coordinator Erin has been looking into having Silver Sneakers approved for the senior center. Although Karen and Debby Voelker had been previously rebuffed, Erin seemed to be making some headway and members are making calls nominating the senior center to be added as a site and a number of insurance companies participate in this program. Erin has also been conducting a fitness class outdoors and was able to cover another class when the instructor was unavailable. Her fitness background has been a big asset. Members are asking about card playing, Mah Jongg and the continued need to wear masks and maintain social distancing.

OLD BUSINESS

WSC Covid-19 – Facility Status Report

ED Viola reported that the vaccine clinics have continued, and over 400 people came through yesterday and next Thursday will be the last large clinic held here. Health nurse Anne Bernick will continue to do small clinics out of her office on Fridays and the Health Dept. will continue

doing pop up clinics around town and targeting homebound individuals. According to Steve Civitelli, 92.7% of Wallingford residents age 75+ and 96% of those 65 to 74 have been vaccinated. For the month of April, we have been averaging 125 people per day. This is 50% of pre-pandemic attendance and seems to be increasing as people gain confidence and feel safer post vaccination. Our plan continues to be to officially reopen the Memory Lane Program which has already been doing a soft opening this month and to resume transportation to and from the center as of Monday, May 3rd. Still debating when to reopen Lake View Café. Hoping for some relaxation of either mandatory masking or distancing to make that a little easier. Asking through CASCP and the CT Department on Aging for some targeted relaxation for senior centers based on the high vaccination rates but not confident that will happen. Concerned that if we reopen Lake View Cafe that wearing masks and distancing will become very difficult to enforce.

FY 21-22 WCOA Budget Update – Public Hearing

ED Viola reported the meeting was delayed until there were enough Town Councilors to have a quorum. Once the meeting began there were no questions specific to the senior center except from Susan Huizenga from Local Access TV posing the question “How do nonprofits in town participate in the insurance plan such as the Senior Center does?” Town Councilors may still have questions for the senior center budget at the “Budget workshop” meeting on Tuesday, April 20th at 6:30 p.m. Also reviewed the changes to our budget requested by the mayor where \$90,000 (\$75,000 from operating and \$15,000 from transportation) will be subtracted from our request and replaced by carryover funds.

NEW BUSINESS

Review WCOA Committee Openings – Copies of the board chart committee listings were distributed. ED Viola reviewed openings, promotion of some members to Committee Chair and suggestions for filling open spots, many of which were filled in by the new members replacing those left by outgoing members. After discussion and review, all open slots were filled and a new chart will be distributed prior to the next meeting.

Future meeting time – Following brief discussion it was decided to keep the future WCOA meeting time at 9:00 a.m. instead of reverting to the pre-pandemic time of 8:30 a.m.



OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Anne Bernick made the motion to adjourn. Rosemary DeAngelis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


William Viola 
Executive Director