

Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, December 28, 2023

The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, December 28, 2023, at 10:00am at the Walpole Council of Aging with the following members present; Josette Burke, Janet Fasanello, Mary Jones, Sandhya Malur, Jerry Reicher, Marcia St Louis, Jim Pellegrine, and JoAnne Mulligan. Also in attendance was COA Director Kerri McManama, and Nancy Aicardi. Two (2) guests were in attendance.

Absent: Joanne DiPietro, Meaghan Priest, Linda Winslow

10:05 AM: The Monthly Meeting was called to order by Josette Burke

1. Attendance was taken, and then the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Review of November Meeting Minutes
 - There were no corrections noted. JoAnne motioned and Sandhya seconded
 - The vote was 4 – 0 – 4 to accept the Minutes with Jim, Josette, JoAnne and Sandhya abstaining as they were absent in November
3. Outreach Update – Kerry McNamara for Jillian Nauman (slides were provided)
 - The total Outreach number for November was 454 to 240 unique individuals
 - a. The monthly numbers remain consistent
 - b. In person visits is still up with a total of 162
 - c. The total number of Outreach was 503 in November – Shine and Fuel Assistance calls contributed to the large number
 - Kerry provided slides including a Pie Chart with the breakdown of categories of Outreach
 - a. Some of the higher numbers are seen in Nursing/Wellness Clinic as Trish is now here Wednesday and Thursday, Medical Rides, Foot Care. Medicare/Masshealth numbers are still up due to Open Enrollment and Shine. The other category that is growing is the Grandparent group, and Jillian is doing a great job including meeting with the Town Crisis Intervention Team
 - b. Total Rides continues to be a big demand – November saw a count of 439 rides, which is pretty much the top due to availability of drivers, with Scheduling the highest demand which 245 rides
 - Lauren's retirement
 - d. Jill is not quite ready to go full-time, but her hours have increased to 19 hours/week
 - e. Lindsay, whose background as a licensed social worker with 15 years of geriatric case management experience is well suited for Outreach, will start covering Outreach on Mondays and Tuesdays, and her hours will increase to 14 hours/week
 - f. Both Jillian and Lindsay are very flexible
4. Center Update – Kerri McManama (slides were provided)
 - Check-ins
 - a. The numbers were down a little with a total of 3,559
 - b. The YTD total check-ins are over 50,000 with a total of 52,653
 - c. The In Town and Out of Town participants as well as the Female and Male participants ratios remain the same
 - d. The average daily attendance for November was 187, and there's always one day a week with attendance over 200
 - November Events in Review
 - a. Morning of Remembrance
 - b. Veterans Breakfast/VSO and Veteran Service Committee – 60 attendees
 - c. Norwood Theatre Lunch and Theatre Combo

- d. Newport Playhouse Trip
 - e. Senator Rush Coffee Hour
 - f. JWCW Ice Cream Social – 102 attendees
 - g. Two-part Geography Series
 - h. Lions Club Thanksgiving Dinner – 103 attendees which was an all-time high
 - i. 2024 Open Enrollment Analysis Statistics for Walpole COA Beneficiaries
 - 1. Marv's workload was greater this year as Lauren was out for the month of November
 - 2. 162 People were served with 104 of these having a change
 - 3. The Total Baseline was \$310,383. The Total after changes was \$109,259
 - 4. The Total Savings was \$149,134 with an average savings per person of \$1,434
 - Staffing Update
 - a. With Lindsay transitioning to Outreach, The COA will be looking for a program coordinator, but will be increasing the hours of that position from 18 to 24 hours
 - b. The benefits previously held by the Outreach Worker will be transitioned to the program coordinator position
 - c. December 15th was Jose's last day as custodian as he is transitioning to another department in Town
 - Holiday Open House December 15th
 - a. 175 Participants with 80 for breakfast
 - b. Tyler, his Mom and Rich McCarthy worked with local businesses and every participant received a gift card
 - c. The Center is so fortunate to have so many wonderful partners in the community that add such a personal connection to the Event
 - d. The Friends sponsored the refreshments and the Steve Rudolph Trio
 - e. Walpole HS Football Team made a special guest appearance to pull the special drawings for the centerpieces, baskets and larger gift cards
 - Upcoming events
 - a. The Center will be closed on January 1st, and January 15th
 - b. Boston Post Cane will be January 4th
 - c. The Center's 5th birthday party will be on January 19th
 - d. AARP Tax Prep Program registration open January 22nd
 - e. Barbie movie matinee January 26th is totally full
 - f. Beginner iPhone and iPad Series January 29th is full with 26 on the wait list (more than the number of attendees)
5. Finance Update – Sandhya (slides were provided)
- Total spent in November was \$2,890.30 (Operating Budget)
 - a. The cost of electricity was up possibly due to the number of outside rentals
 - b. The cost of water was double the usual amount
 - c. FY spending is right on target
 - A total of \$1,454.97 of the Formula Grant was spent in November (does not include funds spent on salaries). The three main categories where money was spent were Fitness/Wellness - the number may seem high, but every class is full; Supplies; and Newsletter Printing
 - Gifts
 - a. The Center received \$1,530.00 in gifts in November
 - b. A total of \$1,638.25 was spent in November leaving a balance of \$14,603.59
 - c. Walpole is very fortunate to have a healthy Gift Budget which helps to defray costs on a number of programs
6. Old Business
- Front Door Decal
 - a. Kerry and Jerry have not had an opportunity to meet
 - b. The biggest problem is the color – it will not be multicolored, and there are not many colors available
 - Handicapped Parking
 - a. Jim Crowley came over to check the site
 - b. Unable to add additional spots without digging which is not possible due to this being a Superfund site
 - c. If we try to change the parking along the back of the lot by the dumpsters, we may only gain one spot

7. New Business

- Walpole Housing Update
 - a. A new Executive Director has been selected – Monique Bergeron, a prior director in Bellingham
 - b. She will take over in January, and there will be a little overlap with Denise
 - c. She is open to coming to speak to the Board
- Master Plan Update
 - a. The Planning Board is going to discuss the Plan at their January 18th meeting – not sure if the Consultant will be there
- Select Board Update
 - a. WPD and WFD Chiefs gave their Quarterly Reports
 - b. WFD Appointments – Jacob Feeley and Ryan Noonan were welcomed as the newest members
 - c. FY25 Budget – Town Administrator Jim Johnson has completed a draft, balanced budget and has started coordination with the School Administration on completing a consolidated draft budget as early as possible
 - d. Walpole 300th – visit the website for more details as there are events planned throughout next year. The Laser show on December 16th was a big success
 - e. Complete Streets – the Board approved the final installment of funds from this State program that goes towards a myriad of infrastructure improvements
 - f. 931 Main Street (intersection of East and Main Streets) – Town Engineer Carl Balduf recommended approving the performance security as this project is taking place above the Spring Brook culvert
 - g. Water Main Replacements – the Board voted to award a contract for further water main replacement work
- Friends of Walpole Elders
 - a. There was no report as Rich McCarthy was not present
- Looking ahead
 - a. January 2024 – Chief of Police Rich Kelleher to discuss safety concerns regarding crossing South Street
 - b. February 2024 – Town Administrator Jim Johnson
 - c. March 2024 – new Executive Director of WHA
- Attendance of Chair and Vice-Chair at the December 12th meeting with the Town Attorney on “How to Run and Effective Meeting”
 - a. The Attorney met with Chairs, Vice Chairs and Executive Boards of all Town Committees
 - b. The COA Board is doing an excellent job
 - c. Josette reached out to Liz, Town Clerk, regarding the WHA as Liz has reached out to the WHA on a regular basis for meeting minutes
 - d. The hope is that things will improve with the new Executive Director. Because this is a State Committee, the WHA must defer to the State’s schedule
- Josette gave a big Thank You to all the Board members as one year ends and another year begins for dedicating their time
 - a. We are also fortunate to have so many young, dedicated, compassionate staff in Administration here at the COA
- Jerry has reached out to the Town Weekly newspaper to see if they would allow a regular “column” about the Center, it’s programs, activities, etc.
 - a. Jerry is trying to increase the number of men who attend the Center
 - b. Sandhya offered to meet with Jerry to brainstorm about ideas

8. Open Forum

- a. No questions from the guests

Next Meeting scheduled for January 25th, 10:00 AM at the Center

Janet motioned, and Sandhya seconded

After a unanimous vote, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM