

Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, June 22, 2023

The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, May 22, 2023, at 10:00am at the Walpole Council of Aging with the following members present; Josette Burke, Janet Fasanello, Mary Jones, Jim Pellegrine, Sandhya Malur, Joanne DiPietro, Linda Winslow, Jerry Reicher, Marcia St Louis, and JoAnne Mulligan. Also in attendance was COA Director Kerri McManama, COA Outreach Worker Jillian Nauman, and Nancy Aicardi. Three (3) guests were in attendance.

Absent: Meagan Priest

10:01 AM: The Monthly Meeting was called to order by Josette Burke

1. Attendance was taken, and then the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Brendan Croak, Recreation Department Director
 - Brendan was born in Walpole and has lived here all his life. He has worked at the Recreation Department in one capacity or another for all his adult life.
 - In the past the Recreation Department has had more senior-oriented programs, but now they defer to the COA. All adult programs are open to all ages though.
 - Programs
 - a. Movie Nights once a month in Stone Field – attendance is increasing
 - b. Concerts on the Common – attendance has decreased since food stopped being offered
 - c. Pickleball – there are two dedicated fields at the complex in South Walpole. There is also a court at Jarvis farm and Johnson Middle School, but these two locations do not have permanent nets
 - d. For information on these and other programs, go to walpolerec.com and create an account to receive emails on events
 - e. AEDs: there are AEDs in all buildings that have programming, also Town fields (but not necessarily school fields), there are also AEDs in all Walpole schools
 - Financial Aid Account – “Smiling Eyes”
 - a. This allows children who can’t afford to participate in events to participate
 - b. Each eligible child receives \$300/year broken up over \$75 per season. They also receive a summer pool pass.
 - c. A lot of the programs tend to be \$50 - \$60 each. Summer programs tend to be more expensive, but students can carry over any left-over funds from the Spring programs.
 - d. Currently there is approximately 100 repeat children in the Program
 - e. Funding
 1. When people register for any program, they have the option to donate to the Fund
 2. The Friends of St. Patrick have been very generous
 3. John D. Langley Foundation has also been generous – this is a Fund set up in honor of a son who passed away in college
 4. The Department sometimes reaches out to the banks in Town
 5. Since the Recreation Department is a Town department, they can not actively fund raise, so they also depend on word of mouth to raise awareness
 6. There is a fine line between the anonymity of families and “advertising” the Program to request funding.

- f. Eligibility for Program
 1. The Fund is open to predominantly elementary-age children, but it goes from pre-school through high school (High-schoolers must go through the Guidance Department to apply)
 2. The children do not have to be in public school, TEC School students are also eligible to participate. Rarely, private school students are eligible.
 3. The Recreation Department works with school nurses and counselors to identify eligible students.
 4. Eligible Walpole seniors can get half-price pool passes.
 5. There is no specific funding for seniors, but they will never refuse anyone
3. Review of May Meeting Minutes
 - There were no corrections noted. Janet motioned and Linda seconded
 - The vote was unanimous to accept the May minutes
4. Outreach Update – Jillian Nauman (slides were provided)
 - The total Outreach number for May was 365 to 202 unique individuals
 - a. The number of people “dropping in” continues to increase and outpaces appointments.
 - b. Jillian provided slides including a Pie Chart with the breakdown of categories of Outreach
 1. Well-being checks are one of the biggest categories. They are usually initiated by the staff and require a lot of follow-up and lengthy phone calls.
 2. Medical Rides continues to be a big demand
 3. Information/Research Category - usually actively researching a specific issue or task to be performed at the home of the caller
 - Today is the first Grandparents Raising Grandchildren meeting
 1. This took a lot to get up and running, but Jill is very hopeful about this group
 2. There are many professionals in the community who are willing to come in and speak to this group and offer their help
 3. There are currently three families in the group. Jill feels it’s best to start small to allow the participants to get to know one another.
 4. They will start informally and not do too much too soon.
 - “Feel good” story
 - a. A “friend” stopped into Jill’s office asking for help
 - b. He has a few health issues, is hard of hearing and doesn’t drive
 - c. His son drives him to all his medical appointments, but the “friend” didn’t want to bother him with this
 - d. He needed help to call to set up a follow-up medical appointment and had tried multiple times with no success. He also needed to get his prior medical records from two different locations to bring to the follow-up appointment
 - e. It took a couple of hours of phone calls, with dropped calls and auto-dial systems, but Jill succeeded in setting up the appointment, and finding rides for him to get his medical records
5. Center Update – Kerri McManama (slides were provided)
 - Check-ins
 - a. The numbers went back up in May after a slight dip in April – There was a total of 4,151 check-ins in May
 - b. The YTD total check-ins has surpassed the total count for 2021
 - c. The average daily check-in for May was 189
 - d. Fitness and recreation remain the highest numbers seen, and social events are increasingly well-attended
 - e. There were a lot of new members in May, and staff was conducting group tours as a result

- Other Updates
 - a. There was a huge increase in use of The Wallet in May and June
 - 1. May had 40 deposits totaling \$1,550
 - 2. June had 31 deposits totaling \$961
 - b. Summer Hours begin the first week of July
 - c. The Center will be closed on July 3rd and 4th, and the first Friday noon closing will be the 8th
 - d. Breakfast Menu has transitioned for the summer
 - 1. M, W, F – Spinach and Egg White Frittatas
 - 2. T, Th – French Toast Sticks and Hash Browns
 - 3. Assorted pastries, parfaits, bagels, and hot and cold cereal are available every day
 - 4. It looks like the Center will need to buy a small cooler or fridge rather than sharing the refrigerators in the kitchen
 - e. Longest Day Lemonade Stand on June 21st was a success
 - f. The pool tables will be re-felted on Friday, June 30th – this has been funded by the pool players
 - g. The Center received a very generous gift from The Charann Charitable Fund (noted in Finance Update)
 - Upcoming events
 - a. July 11th – Summer Reading Challenge Launch
 - b. July 18th – Minute to Win It Game Night (the police will also have a team competing)
 - c. July 25th – Music and Commercials Lecture
 - d. August 1st – GNO Floral Design Class
 - e. August 8th – Lions Club BBQ Luau
 - f. August 15th – Medicare 101 Lecture
 - g. August 22nd – Dinner Show – kind of a jazz night – registration to open soon
 - h. August 29th – Movie Night – “Air”
6. Finance Update – (Sandhya provided slides)
- Totals for May, as well as to date Totals for June were provided
 - Total spent in May was \$6,989.58 (Operating Budget)
 - a. Electricity was over \$2,000 but included two months’ worth of bills
 - b. The water bill was high – over \$1,200 – and Kerri is investigating – Kerri spoke with Bill Abbott, and the increase is an annual \$500 charge for the Fire Suppression System
 - c. Office supplies remain high, but Kerri purchased toner
 - MTD totals for June is \$6,403.24 (Operating Budget)
 - a. Outdoor shelving for outdoor supplies was purchased
 - b. Kerri had Jose purchase and stock cleaning supplies
 - A total of \$2,379.88 of the Formula Grant was spent in May (does not include funds spent on salaries)
 - a. The water system in the Café and Murphy Room were updated and partial payments were made in May and June
 - MTD totals of the Formula Grant for June is \$1,691.06
 - a. It looks like a balance of \$45,734.24 will be carried over to FY24
 - Gifts
 - a. The Center received a total of \$525 in gifts in May
 - b. A total of \$1,609.58 was spent in May leaving a balance of \$14,491.04
 - c. MTD total of gifts for June is \$7,700, including the \$7,500 gift from A. Lorusso (Charann Charitable Fund)
 - d. A total of \$2,340.84 has been spent to date in June with the biggest expenditure for the Summer Kickoff Event
 - e. The Gift balance to date is \$19,750.20

7. Old Business
 - Election of Officers
 - a. The Slate of Officers remains the same: Chair – Josette Burke, Vice-Chair – Janet Fasanello, Treasurer – Sandhya Malur, Clerk – Linda Winslow
 - b. According to the By-Laws, since there are no changes to the Slate, the Clerk (Linda) can cast one vote to elect the Slate
 - c. Linda, as Clerk, voted to accept the Slate as is
 - d. Note, this is the third year of service for the current slate
 - Signage at street – no update yet from Jim Johnson
8. New Business
 - Walpole Housing Update
 - a. Josette sent a note of condolence to Denise Landry
 - Master Plan Update
 - a. The next step is for the Plan to go to the Planning Board
 - Select Board Update
 - a. The Town received word that the Prison is now closed as the last prisoner was moved out yesterday
 - Friends of Walpole Update
 - a. The Friends were able to provide two additional benches for the walking path
 - Anatomy of past year – the consensus was that people wanted to continue with Town Officials coming in to speak to the Board
 - Looking ahead to next year
 - a. September will be both the Annual Meeting as well as the September meeting
 - b. October - possibly Dylan Thomas, Mental Health Clinician with the Police Department
 - c. More intergenerational events at the Center
 - d. The Center will see whether additional students would like to come in to present topics
 - e. How to improve the Town website and/or increase town-wide communication
9. Open Forum
 - a. No questions from the guests

Next Meeting scheduled for September 28th, 10:00 AM at the Center

Janet asked for a Motion to Adjourn – Janet motioned, and Joanne D seconded

After a unanimous vote, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM