

# Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 28, 2023

The Annual meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 10:00am at the Walpole Council of Aging with the following members present; Josette Burke, Janet Fasanello, Mary Jones, Linda Winslow, Meagan Priest, Sandhya Malur, Joanne DiPietro, Marcia St. Louis, Joanne Mulligan, and Jerry Reicher. Also in attendance was COA Director Kerri McManama, and Nancy Aicardi. Nine (9) guests were in attendance.

Absent: Jim Pellegrine

10:00 The Annual Meeting was called to order by Josette Burke

1. The picture of the full Board was postponed to the end of the meeting.
2. Attendance was taken and then the Pledge of Allegiance was recited
2. Josette reminded Board members to review their Policies and Procedures and made note of the fact that Board positions are a three-year term.

10:04 AM: A motion was made by Janet Fasanello and seconded by Joanne Mulligan to close the Annual Meeting. The Vote was unanimous to close the Annual Meeting.

10:05 AM: The Monthly Meeting was called to order by Josette Burke  
(Note: the same members as above were in attendance)

1. Review of June Meeting Minutes
  - One small date correction was noted
  - Linda motioned and Sandhya seconded for accepting the Minutes with the one correction
  - The June Minutes- with the correction - were accepted by a 7-0-1 vote
2. Friends of Walpole Elders (moved up from "New Business")
  - Rich McCarthy reported on the Cliff Snuffer Fundraiser
  - 20 players paid a \$10.00 fee to play in the tournament
  - The Snuffer Family also was in attendance and presented the Friends with a \$1,000 check
  - All proceeds from the tournament and the Snuffer Family Gift are to be held in the pool fund for repairs, etc.
  - Rich purchased a commemorative plaque to be placed in the pool area to hold names of winners of the annual tournament
3. State of the Center – Kerri McManama
  - Kerri briefly touched on the Team Members, and reiterated on what a great team it is to work with. The Focus of the Center is Community – Support – Growth and Opportunity, and Kerri touched on how each member contributes
  - Community
    - a. The focus of the Center remains on Community – Welcoming, Warmth, and a Sense of Belonging
      1. FY stats: 2,142 Unique people served – 46,527 Total people served – 90 Volunteers - 4,227 Programs/Events – 16,978 Programming hours
    - b. FY23 Community at a Glance

1. Average daily attendance: 140
  2. Busiest day: Wednesday (163)
  3. Busiest month: May (189)
  4. Average unique monthly users: 685 - 20% increase over FY22
    - Average unique monthly users FY22: 573
  5. Average monthly check ins: 2854 (46% increase over FY22)
    - Average monthly check ins FY22: 1951
- Support
    1. FY stats: 1,181 Unique outreach – 4,487 Total outreach – 172 Unique riders – 5,327 Rides
    2. Last year the growing need for medical transportation was shared
      - FY23 307 Medical rides were provided to 50 unique riders
      - FY22 221 Medical rides were provided to 37 unique riders
      - 39% Total increase and 35% increase in unique riders
    3. There's a growing group of people with dementia
      - This issue really needs to be addressed
      - They require a lot more support and coordination of care
      - They require a lot more staff time
      - The Center's independent level programming is not meeting increasing needs
      - FY22 - 27 crisis intervention for 16 unique members
      - FY23 – 126 crisis intervention for 57 unique members
      - This represents a 256% increase in members and a total increase of 367%
  - Growth
    1. The total participation is just over 40,000 thus far this year
    2. Wednesdays are still the busiest days
    3. Unique participation year over year is just under 1900
    4. There has been a 72% increase in membership from Pennington Crossing alone in 2023 - from 71 to 122
  - Opportunity
    1. There were many accomplishments in FY23
      - Daily breakfast celebrated it's one-year anniversary
      - Heartsaver AED program with the BOH continues
      - New programs: Boston Post Cane Program, breath work, reiki, Creative Corner was reimaged
      - Extended hours for fitness room
      - Grandparents raising grandchildren program initiated by Jill Nauman
      - Nutrition counseling
      - Initiatives: Photos (additional 128) – Wallet (\$7,000 deposited into wallets)
      - Newsletter redesign and name change
      - Circuit training
      - RSVP volunteer driver program – helps with the unmet medical ride needs
      - Continued partnerships with WPD, WFD, BOH, Assessor, Recreation
    2. FY24 accomplishments so far
      - Successful summer schedule, including Minute to Win It and Lions Club Luau
      - Senior Moments returns
      - New Member event to be seasonal going forward
      - Series style education programs – music this month, finance next month
      - Expansion of wellness checks to now include Thursday appointments also
      - Cliff Snuffer Pool Tournament
      - Update to Transportation Risk Assessment
      - Increase in Outreach hours – Jill is now up to 19 hours per week
      - Outreach to community professionals, starting with PCPs
      - Large print of monthly calendar now available

- Supportive programs for Forgetful Friends – working with other COAs as there is no space to hold meetings here
  - NCOA Vaccine Initiative Grant (Norwood, Dedham & Westwood also received a grant)
    - i. In addition to Flu Clinic at COA Center, there will be a clinic at each of the two housing locations
    - ii. Trish will also do in-house visits for shut-ins
    - iii. The COA can't use any of these funds for RSV, but can use it for Covid vaccines
4. Finance Update – (Sandyha Malur provided slides)
- The Center spent 90% of the General Fund (Operating Budget) in FY23
    - 1. Going forward, Training and Development will be paid from here, not from the Formula Grant as most programs are now on Zoom
    - 2. It was determined that the additional Water expenses were due to a small leak in the women's handicapped bathroom
    - 3. FY24 Appropriation is \$42,600
  - The Formula Grant had a healthy carry over from FY22
    - 1. FY24 Funding based on the Federal Census of 6416 seniors at rate of \$14
    - 2. Estimated Formula Grant funding for FY24 is \$135,691.55, which will cover salaries as well as expenses
  - Gifts
    - 1. The Center received a total of \$695 in gifts in July and August
    - 2. Balance remaining as of August 30 is \$16,212.09
5. Discussion and Vote on Holiday Schedule
- November: to be scheduled November 30<sup>th</sup> as Thanksgiving is the 23<sup>rd</sup>
    - 1. Joanne DiPietro motioned, and Mary Jones seconded
    - 2. Vote was unanimous to accept
  - December: to be scheduled December 28
    - 1. Janet motioned, and Sandhya seconded
    - 2. Vote was unanimous to accept
6. Old Business
- Signage
    - 1. The new sign saying "Senior Center" is currently in production
      - It is double-sided with blue lettering on a white background
      - To be placed at end of entrance driveway
    - 2. Jerry Reicher brought up the need for a second sign closer to the building saying "Senior Center" as people still think it's a bank
    - 3. Jerry also mentioned the need to increase PR by adding "Senior Center" after COA
    - 4. Joanne DiPietro suggested saying "The Senior Center at the COA" on the letterhead and any PR
  - Still trying to schedule Dylan Thomas for the October meeting – need to work around his schedule
7. New Business
- Ed Winslow spoke on the pool program here at the COA
    - 1. Currently there are 25 active members, including 7 women
    - 2. Originally there were only two tables and many times there was a wait list to play
      - A third table was added after Covid
    - 3. There are two in-house teams which play on Monday and Thursday
      - The numbers vary – 4 on a team is ideal, 5 or 6 members is great
    - 4. There are two traveling teams – one with 6 players, and one with 7 players

- One team travels and one team usually stays here
- 5. Rich McCarthy came up with the idea of having an Annual Tournament
- Walpole Housing Authority Meeting Update – Linda has not been able to attend
  - a. Denise Landry, the Director, will be stepping down at the end of the year
    - 1. She has been on the Authority for 25 years
    - 2. She unexpectedly lost her 42-year-old son in an accident in May
  - b. Jim Delaney, the State-appointed member, has also resigned
  - c. Not sure who Denise's replacement will be, or who the interim director will be
  - d. The issue in Walpole is that there is not enough housing
- Master Plan Update
  - a. The final Plan is over 100 pages
  - b. It is still on hold
  - c. The Planning Board – who gives final approval – will not vote to accept the Plan until they have had a chance to meet with the consultant
    - 1. She has been busy and has not scheduled a meeting yet
- Select Board Update
  - a. Special election Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall on funding for Tri-County school proposal
  - b. FinCom public hearing before Fall Town Meeting – October 12<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall
  - c. Fall Town Meeting at WHS Auditorium on October 16<sup>th</sup>
  - d. MBTA Communities
    - 1. Planning Board declined to take the lead on developing the zoning revisions required by the State by the end of 2024
    - 2. The Select Board will assemble a Steering Committee in concert with Patrick Deshenes, the Director of Community and Economic Development, to review the consultant's work and develop the appropriate zoning changes in an Article to bring to Spring 2024 Town Meeting
  - e. ADU Fall Town Meeting Article
    - 1. The Board voted 4-0-0 for Favorable Action on this Article
    - 2. This revision would simplify the process and shorten the timeline for residents who wish to pursue a permit to construct an accessory dwelling unit
  - f. Marijuana Establishment Fall Town Meeting Article
    - 1. The petitioner had communicated to the Town that they wished to revise the Article based on the public hearing feedback
    - 2. The Board voted 4-0-0 to Refer Back to Petitioner, which would allow the petitioner to return with a revised Petition at the Spring 2024 Town Meeting
- Tri-County Information
  - a. Special Town Election October 24<sup>th</sup> for a Yes / No Vote whether to approve New School
  - b. Walpole is one of 11 towns involved with Tri-County who will be voting Yes/No
  - c. Tri-County, as well as other trade/technical High Schools are 60 years old
  - d. The State School Building Authority is treating this as a regular high school, but trade/technical high schools are much more costly due to labs and shop equipment needs
  - e. The State will potentially pay \$82 million of costs once the new school is built, but there is no guarantee
  - f. Pricing: currently the pricing quoted is \$285,992,662
    - 1. This price is based on a 30-year loan at 4% interest - could be a 35-year loan, and interest rates are much higher than 4%, so ultimate cost would be greater
    - 2. \$232 Million is for construction costs alone
    - 3. No cost for architectural plans is included in this figure
  - g. Tri-County is on a 60-acre lot, the old school would be torn down once a new one is built
  - h. Walpole currently is third in the number of students it sends to Tri-County
- Topics for Future Meetings

- a. Meagan mentioned that there is a new Alzheimer's medication and possibly have a pharmacist or doctor come in to talk about it
- 8. Open Forum – no questions from the Guests
- 9. Group Board photo was taken

**Next Meeting scheduled for October 26th, 10:00 AM at the Center**

Josette asked for a Motion to Adjourn – Linda motioned and Sandyha seconded

After a unanimous vote, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM