

Foxborough Council on Aging and Human Services
Board Meeting January 21, 2010

Present: Chairperson Joanne Pratt, Ed O'Leary, Colin Haney, Wendy Haney, Ann Alibrandi and Director Vicki Lowe

Absent/ Excused: Nancy Sullivan, Jerry Norwood, Elaine Biggieri and Lloyd Gibbs

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm

Minutes of November 18, 2009 accepted

Budget ~Vicki reported that we are doing well with spending in the Operating Budget. We have a slight cushion, so that if anything were to happen that caused an unexpected expense we'd have some leeway.

We received a \$50.00 donation from a BGF client as a thanks for the group.

The Friends received approximately \$5900.00 donation from the Spinney's in honor of Eileen Lonergan. This money was turned over to the Neponset Valley Alzheimer's Partnership to be earmarked for respite for Foxboro residents.

The Advisory Committee meeting was last night. Noreen and Vicki presented the need for ½ time social worker with a chart of case and also how they had increased in the past few years. At the Budget meeting Vicki had with Andy and Randy last week, they painted a more dismal picture of the overall budget than at the department head meeting, with a larger shortfall than anticipated.

Director's Report ~

Vicki had a community resource meeting planned with the schools on 2/3/10 at the High School. The food pantry has reported that they are seeing double the numbers of families this year. Times are tight for everyone and we want to be sure the schools are aware of what is and isn't available through the community groups. There will be an Interdepartmental meeting scheduled for 2/10/10 at the Public Safety building. Peter Curran will be the speaker to talk about how these meetings work in Norwood and as a police officer, how they are beneficial to his work. It is an opportunity for each department and local organizations to share what they do for difficult situations and open a dialogue prior to a crisis.

Vicki stated she has been attending the Drug & Alcohol Coalition meetings, and have met separately with the coordinator, Janet Fisher and Noreen. They are trying to figure out where they fit in what they are trying to accomplish. Vicki will get involved with the community meeting is being planned for the future.

Vicki and travel committee met about the trips. Vicki said they have done a great job. Vivian would like to escort on trips. Vicki checked the by-law and it says 'staff or representative'. (We have had staff or board members in the past.) Vicki feels that those who work on the trips should be able to go as escort as long as they have CPR training.

Motion made to permit Trip Committee to be escorts on trip by Joanne and Ed seconded it, Vote taken all agreed, Vicki would like to submit the escort assignments to Andy. Vicki stated she could not do the 3/18 trip. Joanne will be the escort for the trip to Branson and Vivian will be the escort for the trip to New York. Trip to Foxwoods on April 1st needs an escort.

Pattiann has resigned as the Computer/ digital camera teacher. Eric from My Senior Center will do be doing some free class.

Vicki said there has been no increase in the fee for exercise class since she had been here. Vote on upping fee to \$2 per class. It was suggested that it should be posted to begin on March 1st. Ann made a Motion and Joanne seconded it. Vote taken all agreed.

Upcoming programs ~

The people who participated in the Coping with Holiday grief series would like to have an ongoing support group. Vicki has spoken to the facilitator and he is willing and available, we are working on a date to start.

The Jack Frost Social has 94 people signed up so far.

Valentine's tea ~ Entertainment will be Foxboro cultural council grantee, Richard Clark.

Old Business ~

Our volunteer has been spoken to about her personal safety being our priority and has signed another Safety Contract.

Harriet Rounds is planning to contact Mary Jean McDermott about being the HESSCO rep. If it still feels right after her meeting she has agreed to be the rep.

New Business~

Ed spoke about a mentoring group that has been formed in Stoughton with old and young people. He suggested if we had a plan for a program we could get funding from a grant, from Health and Human Services. Ed also spoke of the growing problem of prescription drugs and alcohol. The prescription drugs are a problem when people do not destroy the drugs when they are finished using and still have some remaining. He suggested perhaps there should be some type of program or articles in the newspaper advising people how to destroy drugs.

Vicki said she would be contacting the Superintendent of the Schools to discuss the sharing of an additional social worker.

Friends~ Friends cancelled their January meeting as there were no new agenda items to discuss.

Public Input~

Paul Dumas suggested we should be having the meetings in the day time, he had called other COA and they had them during regular hours. He stated we would then have more input from the seniors. He also requested that the meetings from the notes be posted on the bulletin board for review by the seniors. This suggestion were tabled till we had members present.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Alibrandi