

Foxboro Council on Aging and Human Services Board Meeting
May 26, 2010

Present: Chairperson Joanne Pratt, Colin Haney, Wendy Haney, Elaine Biggieri, Lloyd Gibbs, Jerry Norwood, Vivian Pitts, Jeanne Bonneau, Ann Alibrandi and Director Vicki Lowe

Meeting called to order at 5: pm
Minutes accepted of April 15, 2010 as amended

Joanne opened the meeting by introducing the new member Jeanne Bonneau and also announcing that Ed O'Leary would be acting as ex-officio board member.

Budget:

The COA will be overspent in the Salaries budget due to a minor error, but this was discovered earlier in the fiscal year and Randy will make an end of the year transfer to cover the difference. We are under spent at this point in the Operating Budget. In anticipation of the need for unexpected expenses for the building, van or car that could potentially devastate the budget, we have been very conservative and delayed lower priority items. These lower priority items will now be the priority since we can afford to get them taken care of without the risk of running short { The van needs four new tires and the back door needs to be fixed. A need to have additional electrical outlets install, business cards and to repair the automatic door.) Vivian suggested perhaps the COA board should be more involved in the budget process as she and some of the member have expertise in this matter.

Director's Report:

- Our van driver, Ray Wood, had a heart attack on May 19th. The office staff called 911; Elaine was quick thinking and suggested Ray take aspirin, which helped him. He is now home from the hospital and is expected to be out for 6 – 8 weeks. Our substitute van driver, Paul Carr, will be covering Ray's days. He will work 19 hours a week and Bill will work 16 hours.
- The COA, High School, Foxboro Police Department, Board of Health, HUGS of Foxboro and the School Department collaborated on a program presented on May 13th for parents to address bullying and cyber bullying. Foxboro Cable Access has the program on video. if anyone would like to see it. There were around 50 present at the meeting. Dr. Martes and the other town departments felt this was an important first step in addressing these issues as a community. There is a Community Task Force to address bullying and harassment that I will also be involved with. Vicki will be in the group that addresses community programs.
- We had another meeting of the Foxboro Community Service providers today with a speaker talking about hoarding. The goal is to have a plan to assist residents in this situation where we are working as a team. Chief Hatfield would like to be able to flag an address for 'at risk' people to have his staff more prepared and better equipped to meet the needs of the person. We are looking at the

Emergency Intake Form as a possible mechanism to gather this information. Our next meeting in June will be to look at the software in place and the best way to capture information. Vicki explained that Chief Hatfield was very concerned for the safety of the hoarder and also for the safety of the police and fire that enter the home. Knowing in advance would be a safety measure for all.

- Boomchuckers has had their last session and The Chorus will have their last session on June 2nd for the summer. If anyone has any ideas for some summer programs that might fill in those time slots let Vicki know. (Wed. 10-11 and Fri 1-2)
- According to Randy the server footprint can be cut in half on the municipal side if several depts. can migrate to the new, robust server at town hall. We are slated to have this transition within the next 2 weeks.

Programs:

- The senior Spectacular was a great success; there were probably about 700 people.
- The Successful Aging in Place program was well done with a lot of useful information for seniors from a variety of speakers. Vicki has the DVD of the program to have aired on cable.
- Cary's thank you tribute went very well. Joanne is recruiting and coordinating volunteers to 'adopt a garden bed'. Cary continues to participate in programs and seems to be thriving in her new environment.
- The plant, yard and bake sale was a success despite the weather. No one bought yard sale space so that may be eliminated next time.
- Thank you Wendy for all the hard work you did on the men's luncheon.
- TRIAD had its 10 year anniversary party. We are lining up a speaker for the June meeting about volunteer corps. to help in an emergency situation.
- Swing into Spring Social was a success. There were around 100 people.
- The Bereavement Groups of Foxboro had its end of the year meeting on Tuesday. They will meet twice this summer at the Chapel Meetinghouse. In the fall they would like to do a facilitator training for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer group leader. The program will have 4 training sessions in Sept. then the group will begin in October. If anyone is interested let me know.
- The Uncommon Picnic will be on June 10th at St. Mary's Hall. Paul Gookin has been instrumental in coordinating the entertainment.

New business: Vivian reported that while working at the front desk she was made aware of how many clients were assisted. She suggested that perhaps we should ask Noreen to advise us of what the trends were. This could help in the future if we needed more money in the Budget.

There was no report from HESCO as Tenney has been ill.

Friends update:

Vicki spoke to Dick Thompson and they would like to help us get better climate control to accommodate different groups in the various rooms. He had Prevett Heating take a look. It will be very expensive but they would like to do this for us. He has spoken to Andy about the idea. It was suggested that an enclosure be made at the back door as

these would keep the moisture of the walk way. The Highway Department could paint no parking signs in yellow in front of the doorway. These would also help control the draft that is created when the door is opened.

Public Input: Paul Dumas reminded us he had heard from many sources throughout the state that the cuts in the State Funding would not be just for this year. He suggested that we become more proactive with the Advisory Committee. This should be not just at budget time but throughout the year. This is something that needs to be discussed at the next meeting and perhaps some plan should be made to address this matter before it becomes an issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Alibrandi

NEXT MEETING IS JUNE 17, 2010 AT 5: PM