

Arlington Council on Aging Minutes

March 19, 2015

Prepared by: Mara Klein Collins

Present: Mara Klein Collins, Sue Culhane, Annette Bender, Jim Munsey, Noreen Murphy, Dick Phelps, Ingeborg Reichenbach, Associate Members: Karen Nichols, Robert Tosi Jr.

Absent: Paul Raia, Marge Vanderhill.

1. Call to Order. Who volunteers to take minutes today? Noreen agreed to take notes and Mara would put them into the minutes format.
2. Citizen's Open Forum. No one present.
3. Minutes of the December 18, 2014 meeting. Tabled as the notes were never completed. To be submitted for next month. Susan and Mara will work with Annette who took notes.
4. Report of the Chair
 - Working with the Executive Director to reorganize and reformat the newsletter to be easily readable and look more timely.
 - Created a format for minutes. If someone will take the notes and give them to me I will submit them. See above.
5. Executive Director's Report
 1. Most programs from January -end of February were postponed. All programs are back on schedule
 2. December stocking program through the Friends of Arlington was a success. Thanks to the Friends and an army of volunteers
 3. Dr. James Ellison's presentation on Cognitive Health was successful; all participants participated in the mini mental tests.
 4. Clinical staff moved to the 3 offices upstairs. Lourie August, Joyce Killingsworth, and Mark Waksmonski are all now situated on the first floor. We are working out the "bugs"
 5. The Chinese New Year event supported by the Friends of ACOA was a huge success. There were 64 attendee's primarily mandarin Chinese speakers. This event cultivated cultural awareness and opened our doors to our non-English speaking Arlington seniors. We will be doing more outreach to this population.
 6. The Harry Barber program is almost fully subscribed

7. Executive Director spoke at the Finance Committee on Monday, February 23 @8:30. Presentation lasted 10 minutes. With no questions from the audience, the request of 10 participants was approved.
8. We are regularly filming at AMCI on Monday mornings from 10-11. Shows filmed are now being shown the following week.
9. The Arlington Elder Abuse Task Force celebrated it's one year anniversary in January. We have done a number of programs after the large event June 2015 and will continue to do so. We will be following up on our community partners as a thank you for their support and to remind them we are still here and active.
10. The transportation budget appears to be getting a \$40,000 +/- reduction in FY16. The cuts are coming from CDBG and the general fund. The Board requested to see the actual budget submitted. Susan will provide by Wednesday. The Board discussed if this is true, what action should we take: a letter from the Board, attend Town Meeting, meet with Christine? We will wait to decide until we see the budget. *Susan was updated post meeting that no cuts are being made.*
11. CDBG grants that fund Life Line and Arlington Cares Daily are being cut entirely - no other word on the CDBG grants. Susan reported there may be alternate fund sources for these programs. *Susan was updated post meeting that no cuts are being made.*
12. The Friends of Arlington COA awarded the COA funds via their mini-grant program. There have been a series of meetings with the Friends holding back funds due to administrative questions. The Munis accounting system the town uses, does not provide the report detail that Ken Greenly, President Elect likes. Executive Director negotiated a method of financial reporting to the FACOA that upholds the integrity of accountability the COA has always maintained. To date, the FACOA has issued checks directly to the vender for the Chinese New Year (food and Chinese Organization), Tai Chi, and funds for the Walk the Rink Program. Without the Friends, these programs would not be possible.
13. The COA has 6 nurse interns this semester
14. The Executive Director will be the preceptor for 2 summer interns; one is a senior at Regis College and the other is a first year PhD Gerontology student at UMASS. More to come on the projects they will assist us with.
15. Operation A.B.L.E, has had serious cutbacks and that individual has a reduction of hours of 20/week to 7/week. This person has assisted greatly with Program and Communications. The void in her hours are returning to my desk for action. This is a federal program, so nothing can be done
16. National Senior Network program participant has also seen a cut in hours. From 20 hours/week to 12 hours/week. This person has been instrumental in the role of intake for Fuel Assistance and the Benefit Check-up Program.
17. The COA first sponsored LGBT exercise program begins on March 19.
18. Due to the demands created by our harsh snowy winter, the organization is behind. The staff is to be commended as they rose high above each crisis to deliver exceptional service to our seniors in Arlington that made their way to us.

Outreach continues with vigor as the snow has begun to slow and melt. Susan thanked her staff for doing a great job during the challenges of the winter.

6. Other Reports

- a) Minuteman Senior Services Liaison
- b) Friends of the COA. Art Budnick attended the meeting. He updated us on the updated website, Walk the Rink being kicked off with Senator Donnelly there and presentation of the Friends check covering the expense. He noted they will be requesting approval by the Board of Selectman for the 5K run late September. The Board thanked Art and the Friends for their generous support of the COA.

7. New Business

- a). Follow up from January 2015 presentation. The Board decided to see if we may present at a Selectman Meeting. Mara will contact the BOS to see how/when this is possible. We also discussed contacting the Mary Margaret Franclemont and John Deyst the FINCOM members representing the COA, to review the presentation with them. Mara will reach out to them.
- b) Create a nominating committee. Susan to research and advise the Board prior to the next meeting who has terms expiring as there was some confusion. At next month's meeting we will establish a nominating committee.
- c) Susan met with Lahey Clinic and is working on two programs. One will be "Farmers Market" whereby 50 selected seniors (criteria being researched with towns that participated last year) who will receive a bag of fresh produce along with the nutritional value and recipes. The second program will have a diabetes focus and be open to Lahey patients with diabetes who live in Arlington. Again, criteria to be determined.

8. Old Business

- a) Minute taking for 2014/2015. No change. Mara has offered to format from the agenda, the Executive Director and Chair reports. Jim will take minutes in April. Thanks to Jim.

9. Other Business.

10. Adjourned 6 :45 pm Next meeting April, 16 at 5 :45 pm at the Senior Center.