

## COA Board Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2021

Attendees: Marge Ackerman, Jane Donnelly, Leslye Fligor, Susan Ruskin Friend, Bob Froh, Linda Johnson, Wayne Johnson, Jean MacQuiddy, Mignonne Murray, Tom Nicholson, Carol Ott, Prather Palmer, Vida Goldstein (associate member), Gerri Scoll, Teresa Young (associate member).

Absent: Alice Benson (associate member) Betsey Boyd, Melissa Galton (associate member).

Guests: Chris Fitzgerald, Director of Weston Recreation Department, Sharon Locke, Associate Director of Weston Recreation Department, Eric Rosenthal, Chair, Recreation Commission, Melissa Crocker, member, Recreation Commission, Kenneth Barron, COA Board Candidate, John McKenzie, COA Board Candidate

Due to the suspension of in-person public meetings during the Covid-19 Emergency, this meeting was held via zoom and recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

No resident concerns or comments were expressed.

Special Presentation by Chris Fitzgerald, Director of Weston Recreation Department

The Recreation Department is seeking approval for \$250,000 at the May town meeting for the funding of the design fee and a positive vote for construction funds for the Memorial pool restoration. They are looking for the support of the COA.

The scope of the restoration of Memorial pool would include:

1. Replace the aging filtration system
2. Add amenities (water play, deck side activities and a gathering space)
3. Expand the concession area
4. Improve accessibility
5. Modernize the check-in area

The Recreation Commission is discussing adding senior hours at the pool, perhaps the first hour each day. They will most likely keep the price of the senior (age 60+) pool badge at the same rate this year (\$30).

The COA Board voted to support this proposal for funding.

The March board meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: (Prather) No new Treasurer's report again this month.

### Director's Report: (Mignonne)

The vaccine rollout is winding down; 80% of Weston seniors are now fully vaccinated. Weston's homebound folks are almost done; the COA has been working with the town and state contractors on this effort.

Candidates are being interviewed for the part time social worker position.

As of April 5<sup>th</sup>, all COA staff members are on site once again. To create safe working conditions, some of the public spaces have been reconfigured to create more distancing and protection for the staff.

The COA is slowly reopening for classes and services, slowly integrating, and bringing in limited numbers. The online fitness classes have been going well and will continue virtually.

### **Chair Reports**

#### FCOA: (report by Marge for Betsey)

\$1000 check deposit from the button cell battery program has been received marking the end of the program. Special thanks and appreciation was expressed to Shirley Small-Rougeau for all of her work on this program.

Holly is setting up the new donor management software program (there are approximately 200+ donors in the database.) It is anticipated that this software program will cost approximately \$650.00 per year.

It was noted that most of the FCOA funding is focused on supporting COA programs that reach out to many seniors in areas such as transportation, the food pantry, durable medical equipment, and other programs rather than addressing individual personal needs.

#### Community Connections: (Vida)

Community Connections committee is working on its mission statement.

They are hoping to put together a list of people in town who have special talents or expertise who would be available for consulting or giving presentations. If you know of someone who should be included to this list, please forward your suggestions to Vida.

The Social Justice Committee held its first meeting and Jane Donnelly was selected as Chair. They are in the process of creating their goals and objectives.

Prather is still working with Katherine Clark's office on a topic for a future meeting.

Governance: (Susan)

The committee discussed the need for more diversity in recruiting new board members, and for reaching out non-English speakers within the Weston community.

Linda suggested a Speakers Bureau where COA board members could attend various community meetings and events to talk about the benefits and services of Weston's COA.

The Welcome Group name has been changed to Welcome and Hospitality Volunteers.

Housing: (Vida)

The Housing group is looking for Weston residents who have a lot of land and might be willing to donate some of their land to the town to be used for senior housing.

Leslye said that the large gray house near the Biogen property is for rent, has many bedrooms and might be an option for senior housing.

Transportation: (Gerri)

Transportation committee will be meeting tomorrow and will have an update at next month's meeting. Jean added that the MWRTA will be meeting in the next week and she will have an update at our next meeting.

Springwell: (Jean)

Springwell continues to do well. Jean discussed Springwell's Caregiver's Support Program, a free program for an adult family member or other non-paid caregiver providing care.

Springwell received a large grant of \$90,000 which will be used to provide transportation (for both medical and nonmedical needs).

Needs Assessment: (Tom)

Tom will be presenting the Needs Assessment mission statement, objectives and primary strategies at the May board meeting.

Awareness: (Linda/Carol)

Carol and Linda met with COA marketing volunteer Tricia McGann to discuss various activities for the spring and summer.

They are working on a reopening event which will hopefully take place this spring.

Carol is still pursuing new, more visible signage for the COA/Community Center campus.

Welcome and Hospitality (Leslye):

Nothing to report at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Next meeting is May 20 at 8:30 am.