

ECOA Board Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2021
8:30am

Present:, Marvene O'Rourke, Heidi Boyd, John Dropick, Nancy Ignacio, Jay Sigler, Janice Belisle, Stephen Miller; Administrator Lyndsay Famariss. **Absent:** Rosemary Cunningham

The meeting was called to order by Board Co-Chair Marvene O'Rourke at 8:31 am.

Approval of the Minutes

Marvene asked if there were any amendments, questions or additions to the proposed minutes of March 19, 2021. Lyndsay stated that Rosemary pointed out that Nancy Ignacio and Heidi Boyd's names needed to be added to the Nominating Committee news from last month. Upon motion to accept the minutes as amended by John Dropick that was seconded by Jay Sigler, the minutes were accepted unanimously.

The Nominating Committee report was given by Nancy Ignacio. She reported that the Committee unanimously nominated Rosemary Cunningham as Board Chair and Marvene O'Rourke as Co-chair. She reported that the two women have accepted their nominations. John Dropick made the motion to accept the slate, and Nancy Ignacio seconded this motion. The Board voted unanimously to accept these nominations.

Budget:

Lyndsay reported that she had a meeting with James Hagerty and a few other department heads to put together an RFP for cleaning contractors to clean each of our buildings. Lyndsay shared that this line item in the COA budget has been low historically, and likely below what we should expect to be paying both in terms of overall cost/amount of cleaning hours and cost per hour. Lyndsay highlighted the COA's unique situation of serving food but not being viewed as a restaurant by the Board of Health, and welcoming people for non-food meetings and gatherings. She will keep the Board up-to-date as more information becomes available.

Lyndsay inquired whether there were any questions or comments, to which the Board answered that there were not.

Marvene asked whether the Town would put the cleaning RFP out to bid, or if the COA is responsible for doing that. Lyndsay replied that the Town is sending out that request and that we would hear likely in late May about the results.

John Dropick asked if there has been follow-up testing for bacteria in the building, to which Lyndsay reported that there has been no testing that she is aware of. She shared that she feels that our current cleaners are doing an exceptional job in cleaning the building with great care and attention to detail, but that we don't know how much longer we'll have these cleaners.

Administrator's report:

Lyndsay started her Administrator's report by saying that her report was likely to be short, as most of the update has to do with opening up for limited programming, and Meris would be talking in more detail about that. But she shared that she has been doing a lot of work behind the scenes, working on the (soft) reopening plans with BOH agent Matt Poole, our staff and the residents we serve.

Lyndsay encouraged the Board members to contact her if they have any questions or concerns about the plans to re-open.

She reported that she has been working in her role as a Healthy Aging MV Board member on transportation initiatives that would benefit older adults across the island, and in particular, Edgartown. Marvene asked who would be in the role of driver of the van, and Lyndsay responded that it depends on how this project takes shape. If it's a community van that we share with other social service organizations, it would likely be an employee that is hired. But if it's an ECOA van, our staff would be trained to drive the van, or possibly trained, qualified volunteers. She shared that HAMV is leading an initiative for older adult employment, so it's their hope that if someone is hired, it could be an older adult.

Lyndsay stated that she is applying to become a notary public, and that she is in need of an attorney in good standing with the MA Bar to sign off on her application. She asked if anyone knew of an attorney who might be able to help with this endeavor, and John Dropick offered his services. The two made a plan to meet at a later date to sign the papers necessary for the application.

Victoria Haselbarth is also applying for notary public status, so we should soon be able to offer this service again to Edgartown's older adults.

Lyndsay shared that she will be out of the office the week of April 26 to attend to a family member who is having surgery in PA, but she'll be reachable via email and phone.

Director of Senior Services Report:

Meris shared the challenges of planning events during this uncertain time. She reported that she'd welcome feedback from the Board about some Covid-related concerns that are arising as we start to plan to re-open in small ways.

Meris thanked everyone for coming to get their Volunteer Appreciation gifts, and she encouraged those who haven't come to stop by when it's convenient. She shared that she was able to pass along thank you gifts to many Edgartown and island agencies that we've been partnering with in the past years.

Meris reported that the first hearing clinic took place the previous Monday, and that it went very smoothly.

Meris shared that a COA Walking Club is taking shape, and that there is an upcoming planning meeting in which the details will be finalized. She shared that AARP offers a tool kit for walking groups, and that the options are endless for us to expand on this program, should people be interested.

Meris was happy to share that we got the green light from Matt Poole of the Board of Health to have very limited, structured, masked and socially distanced small groups of

vaccinated people in the building in May. She added that all guests will have to sign a waiver (that we're still finalizing) and that we plan to attach our behavior policy to the waiver as a way of reaching our participants and reminding them of our code of conduct.

Meris read a letter from an Edgartown resident in which the resident expressed safety concerns for ECOA events that will be attended by people who have not been vaccinated. A discussion followed, with Lyndsay stating that she has been informed by the Town that as a municipal agency we cannot limit attendance to our building based on a person's vaccination status.

Janice shared that she felt that the publication Meris created to honor ECOA volunteers was gorgeous and that it brought tears to her eyes to see all of the people who help to make The Anchors what it is.

Outreach Report:

Victoria Haeselbarth thanked Katie for her help in updating the Outreach list, an activity that she likes to do quarterly or more often.

Victoria shared that she has been active with the Healthy Aging MV Home modification program, and that they have had four new referrals to the program in the past month. She reported that Squash Meadow Construction has been the contractor involved in installing these modifications. Victoria is looking into additional funding sources for this program, as the costs are high to use a licensed and insured construction company. She stated that the need is great and that she hopes additional funding will be found. Lyndsay jumped in to say that the MV Savings Bank is conducting a contest to have people vote online for different local groups that are enhancing the community. The Home Modification program is on the list for this funding, and everyone can go to the MV Savings Bank website to vote for the program they feel is most deserving.

Victoria delineated the plan to change our paper flyer and pamphlet are on the main and second floors of the building into a streamlined resource that will cut down on multiple people touching documents.

Victoria relayed to the Board that in recent weeks, she has helped two older residents find in-home caregiving assistance. She shared that this service is getting more difficult due to the limited number of caregivers and the particular needs of the person requiring services. She shared that she and Katie have provided over 100 units of service in the past two weeks, which she feels shows the strong need for outreach services in the town.

Victoria gave a report on another older resident who is trying to get a green card, after working in the US and paying taxes for over 25 years. She is helping him to find out if he can get his driver's license renewed with his current documentation status.

Steve Miller and John Dropick suggested that the Outreach workers call the state Senators for direction in this issue. Marvene added that she has found Senator Markey to be particularly responsive in these types of issues.

Katie Vieira joined the meeting and shared the changes to the meals program, including having those who are able come to the Anchors building to pick up their meals on Thursdays. Katie shared that this change allows the staff to see people in person, which she said has the added benefit of being able to evaluate people's needs and find ways to address them.

Katie shared that she has been learning about new sources of fuel assistance and other supports, including support for people's companion animals.

Katie reported that she has been getting more acquainted with the new phone system at the Anchors, as well as taking training on the My Senior Center module.

Katie happily shared that she was able to help an Edgartown older adult to find a job and get back into the workforce after being a caregiver for an aging parent. She added that she feels that the population we serve is getting somewhat more comfortable with getting back out in the community as more people are vaccinated and things open up.

Katie shared that she is working with Donna Paulson and the Greater Boston Food Bank, the Island Food pantry and other island resources to better help the people we serve who are dealing with food scarcity.

Katie updated the Board on the Vineyard Smiles/Polished dental clinic that will be taking place in the Anchors building in the next week.

Marvene asked for confirmation that the food program would not be distributing food next week. Katie confirmed this and Lyndsay and Katie reviewed the options for people who rely on the food that the Anchors provide.

Friends of the ECOA Report:

Janice reported that the Friends were happy to pay for the Volunteer special printing and the mugs, etc. and that there was a Friends Zoom meeting in which the members all agreed that the COA is on the right track. She said that she sent in the taxes for the Friends recently and that she feels very lucky to live in our town with these resources. Janice and Lyndsay shared that the Friends are helping an older resident to get a new Rinnai heater, which will be a tremendous help to the resident.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Marvene O'Rourke adjourned the meeting at 9:39 am after a motion from John Dropick which was seconded by Jay Sigler.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 21, 2021 at 8:30am.