

ECOA Board Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2021
8:30am

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

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Rosemary Cunningham at 8:39 am.

Approval of the Minutes

Rosemary Cunningham thanked Lyndsay for her handling of the interactions with the Kelley House owners in the past months.

Rosemary asked for the Board's approval of the minutes from October 29 and November 9, 2021. John Dropick made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Heidi Boyd seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes from these meetings.

Administrator's report:

Lyndsay thanked the Board and the ECOA participants for attending the site meeting with the Kelley House owners the day before. She thanked the board for their guidance and support throughout this long process.

Lyndsay shared that the process with the Kelley House has brought to the forefront the longer term concerns about the site of our building and the predicted risks due to climate change, especially flooding. Lyndsay proposed that we set up a task force to address this issue, with the hope that we'd have a Board member, an ECOA participant, and select board member on this task force to look into the risks and the potential solutions.

Rosemary stated her support for this idea, and thanked Dianne Durawa for urging us to take this path. Rosemary asked that we consider forming this task force after the holiday season, so members will have more time to participate.

Dianne Durawa stated that she believes this is a vital issue to tackle as a committee, and she believes that the effort that she witnessed at the Kelley House site visit was very meaningful. Dianne shared that several town leaders have brought up with her the issues with the building for the longer term

Lyndsay reported that she has submitted a Capital Programs request to the Town to pay for the exterior painting in fiscal year 2023, and that soon after that project is completed, we will need a new roof. Additionally, there is a drainage project on the horizon for the Daggett St. side of the building. Jay Sigler commented that these costly repairs might indicate a need to look to another building to better suit our needs moving forward. Dianne Durawa offered an historical perspective, noting that the building, as appreciated as the gift was, did not easily fit into the needs of the day program and the COA from its beginning in the mid-1980s. She shared that task forces were created to look into the issue, and while the limitations of the building were evident even then, everything got put on the back burner because of the emotional connection many people felt to the building.

Jay Sigler asked if the Town had other properties that might be considered for possible places should the ECOA need to relocate. Dianne Durawa offered some suggestions, but she said her information may be outdated.

Lyndsay reported that the VTA/HAMV/ECOA van pilot program is inching forward, but there is nothing new to report since our last meeting. Lyndsay assured the Board that she will update them with new information as it becomes available.

Lyndsay shared that she will be checking in with Janice Belisle and the ECOA Friends organization to look into the interior painting and floor refinishing projects. She stated that she had been waiting to do so until the details of the Kelley House parking were finalized, due to the concern that a new parking plan might create a need for the first floor to undergo a reconfiguration.

Lyndsay reported that the ECOA has received funding from Elder Services of the Cape and Islands (via the CARES grant) to give caregivers gift cards to local restaurants. She encouraged Board members to share any names of people with us who could benefit from this generous gift.

Budget:

Lyndsay asked the Board to note in the FY22 budget that there is a spending deficit in the postage line item, but that it was an unintended line item deletion from previous budgets in the amount of \$400. Lyndsay stated that she feels confident that we will have money in the operating budget to make up for our postage expenditures, and that this line item will be added to the COA's FY23 budget. She asked for questions or comments from the Board, but there were none.

Director of Senior Services Report:

Due to Meris' absence, Lyndsay gave a report on programming. Meris passed along to Lyndsay that she had plans to decorate the building for the holidays and that we will be hosting a streamlined version of our annual Open House event. This year's event will not include food and drink, but rather will offer goodies and planners to be passed along to people who stop by to say hello.

She shared that there will be a wreath making workshop with Cookie Perry, Adele Dreyer will have a holiday piano concert via Zoom, and our Knitting for Charity group is busy making items to donate to Harbor Homes, Hospice of MV and to several off island organizations that help people who are unhoused.

Outreach Report:

Victoria Haeselbarth was out of the office on this day, so Administrator Lyndsay Famariss read her report. Victoria reported that she has been busy signing up residents for the turkey dinner gifts that the Edgartown Police Dept will be delivering next week as well as the Elder Services meals deliveries on Thanksgiving Day. Victoria's report included statistics about helping Edgartown older residents with fuel assistance, estate planning, tax exemptions, SHINE counseling, and memory screening. We helped one

family that consists of a matriarch taking care of her grandchildren and great grandchildren to apply for immediate, much-needed support for their heating expenses. John Dropick asked Lyndsay to remember to notify the Firemen's Association for assistance with any fuel-related needs and requests.

Friends of the ECOA Report:

Janice shared that she feels that there are some good things happening, and that she is happy to be a part of it. She offered that the Friends can also help as needed with fuel-related needs. Janice acknowledged that she and Lyndsay will talk soon to discuss the interior beautification projects.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Rosemary Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 9:16 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 17, 2021 at 8:30am.