

ECOA Board Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2022
8:30am

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

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Rosemary Cunningham at 8:31 am.

Approval of the Minutes

Rosemary asked for the Board's approval of the minutes from January 21, 2022. Marvene O'Rourke made a motion to approve the minutes as written and John Dropick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Budget:

Lyndsay reviewed the budget and reported that there was no notable activity to report.

Administrator's report:

Lyndsay shared that she has been trying to connect with Matt Poole of the Board of Health about revisiting our ability to offer in-house programming, with masks. She will reach out to him and to James Hagerty today for further direction. Rosemary shared that she feels it is a good decision to move to that status again. Jay stated that he feels it would be helpful for the Board to show their support for the Administrator's decision to resume programming with masks.

Lyndsay reported that the ad for the part-time Outreach support position has been in the newspaper for three weeks, and we have had two responses to date. The application deadline is today.

She announced that the MV Community Foundation gave us a \$2500 grant to get our van program off the ground. She shared that she, Meris Keating and a volunteer need to take an extensive driver training program with the VTA in order to operate the van. She will keep the Board updated as the program gets off the ground.

Lyndsay asked the Board to approve the check from the Friends of the ECOA for \$2500 to fund the ECOA van program. John Dropick motioned to accept this check, and Nancy Ignacio seconded the motion.

Lyndsay shared that she will be on vacation from February 28- March 4, but she can be reached via cell phone or email.

Lyndsay turned over her report to Marvene O'Rourke, who is leading the ECOA Five Year Committee. Marvene shared that the committee members include: Lyndsay Famariss (ex-officio), Janice Belisle, Nancy Ignacio, Diane Durawa, Sarah Henderson and Carolyn O'Daly. The first meeting will be held on February 23, and Rosemary Cunningham will attend to greet the committee. Marvene explained that the committee's intent is to define issues facing the ECOA in the next five to ten years, and what this will mean financially for the town and for taxpayers. This committee will develop recommendations and strategies to address these issues. The committee plans to consult with townspeople who have expertise in the various issues the ECOA is facing,

including (but not limited to) John Dropick, who will advise the group on environmental issues.

Marvene O'Rourke made a motion that the ECOA Board supports the decision to re-open the Anchors building for in-person programming, following all town and CDC regulations for Covid safety. Jay Sigler seconded this motion and the vote passed unanimously.

Lyndsay shared that she understands that the towns are going to be looking at the mask mandate in the next week, and that that may affect our mask policy at the ECOA. Marvene asked if the ECOA can elect to have a mask policy in place regardless of the Town's decision. Lyndsay answered that she believes that that may be a possibility, but the Board of Health and James Hagerty will need to weigh in on that decision. She explained that it is likely to be a tricky situation because we have participants who want to be done with masks, and others who will not come in to the building if there are not masks mandated.

Director of Senior Services Report:

Meris reported that she presented the design for a new Anchors logo to our mailing list participants, and 70 people responded. She reported being happy with the final result. Meris shared that Healthy Aging MV has invited Meris to be a part of their Advanced Care Planning work group, and as a result that she is helping to disseminate information about the necessity of these forms being in the person's files at MV Hospital. She encouraged all Board members to check in with her if they would like to take part in this initiative.

Meris shared that a long time Edgartown resident, Cate Hitchings, recently moved to the South to be closer to her family, but she asked to contribute something to the Anchors in thanks for all that the ECOA has done for her over the years. Meris connected her with Janice Belisle of the Friends, and they discussed the possibility of adding benches outside the building. Meris and Janice are working on the details of this generous gift. Meris announced that our meditation instructor, Ed Merck, is taking a break for six weeks, but he'll return to offer our weekly classes on April 22.

Liz Villard will be offering a play reading, and there is one spot left for a reader but anyone can take part in enjoying this experience.

Meris reported that the trip to the Back Bay in May is slowly taking on participants, but she's hopeful that more people will sign up as the Covid situation improves and the date nears.

Rosemary thanked Meris for everything that she contributes to the COA.

Outreach Report:

Victoria Haeselbarth is out of the office today, but she gave a written report for Lyndsay to read.

She shared that the need for fuel assistance in the winter tends to be great, and this winter is no exception. Victoria reported that Ann Bassett of MVTV has filmed videos with several of the Home Modification Program participants, with the intent to produce a short promotional video on the program. Participants have been enthusiastic about

taking part in this effort. Lyndsay praised Victoria for helping to get so many Edgartown older adults involved in this Home Modification program.

Victoria's report included note of housing insecure individuals whom she has helped, including helping them to apply to Island Elderly Housing, and other housing supports. Victoria noted that housing is an area of great concern for which we have few supports.

Friends of the ECOA Report:

Janice had nothing new to report, other than her involvement with the day-to-day requests for assistance, the bench project and the MV Community Foundation donation.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Rosemary Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 9:08 am.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 18, 2022 at 8:30am.