

EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING

BOARD MEETING

February 15, 2018

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair Kevin Ryan. Also present were Rosemary Cunningham, Heidi Boyd, Marvene O'Rourke, and Administrator Paul Mohair. Jay Sigler and Olga Church had advised they would not attend.

Minutes Copies of proposed minutes from the January, 18, 2018, meeting were distributed and read. Marvene moved and Heidi seconded that the minutes be approved, which they were unanimously.

Budget Paul distributed the budget report of year to date expenses. He noted all salaries had increased with raises from the town. He said we are about 60% through the fiscal year and have spent about 55% of our budget. There was discussion.

Friends of ECOA Report Janice Belisle, the Friends' treasurer, was present to give a report. Janice mentioned some of the contributions the Friends have made lately to a few seniors' heating bills this winter. Paul talked about last month's outreach meeting he and Janice had attended with the head of the town Fire, EMT, and Health departments. Janice discussed some of the ideas and projects upon which the Friends will be collaborating. We have another town department group meeting tomorrow (Friday, February 16th). There was some discussion. The Board thanked Janice and the Friends for all they do for us and she then left the meeting.

Administrator's Report Paul said Victoria had her sixth anniversary as the outreach worker last month. Paul did her evaluation. Wendy also had her ninth anniversary as a town employee, including the year she worked for the Center for Living. Dona's eighth anniversary is next month. It will also be Paul's seventh.

Paul advised he had stepped down from the Healthy Aging MV Executive Committee, which met every Monday, to allow more time for planning programs, activities, and events at the Anchors. He remains a member of HAMV which meets once a month.

Paul is also on the panel of town department heads to participate in the selection of the new chief of police. The panel will meet next week.

As mentioned, there is a meeting tomorrow, February 16th, following up on last month's meeting with the Friends, Health, EMS, and Fire Departments, concerning outreach to town seniors and programs to facilitate outreach.

Our staff will have a webinar next week to train on MyActiveCenter, the interactive platform for MySeniorCenter, allowing people sign up and register for events, such as lunch, on the internet, rather than phoning our front desk.

Paul said Meris, our part-time grant funded outreach worker, finished her project of calling every senior on the Edgartown street list who is not already entered in our computer data base. Meris created a report containing her results, including a color coded pie chart. She concluded we are doing a good job of reaching the seniors who actually live in Edgartown and that most are aware of the Anchors and what we do.

We have a new color copier we purchased with our state grant this fiscal year. There was general discussion.

Adminstrator's Evaluation Paul said he had emailed the evaluation form to each Board member. Kevin said each member should complete the evaluation and return to him; he will then consolidate all content therein into one evaluation which he will present and conference with Paul. Paul mentioned the evaluation should be completed and returned to the town HR before the date of his anniversary, March 14th. Kevin requested all Board members have their completed evaluations returned to him by early next week.

Kevin asked Paul about the programming and demands on the staff in light of the new days available since the Center for Living relocated. Paul said there is a definite need for more outreach and programming staff and personnel. The demand exceeds what Wendy and Victoria can provide in their respective positions. Paul suggested another full time position which would share equally programming and outreach. This would be a proposal for next year [the town presently has a hiring freeze] which would require a new job description, approval by the Personnel Board, a presentation before the Financial Advisory Committee, and an article on the April, 2019 town meeting warrant to be voted by the town. There was discussion about this and our lunch program.

Director of Senior Services Report Wendy entered the meeting. She talked about our volunteer program, some of our volunteers, and some of their activities, including friendly phone calls and kitchen help. She mentioned some of our programming including our art club, chair yoga, tai chi and more. There was discussion about some of the seniors' experiences at the Anchors and the benefits derived their attendance. Wendy pointed out the ad in this week's Times placed by the Center for Living thanking the Anchors staff and Board for their support. There was discussion. Wendy then left the meeting.

Outreach Report Victoria then entered the room. She mentioned ongoing issues with Protective Services. She and Paul have drafted a letter to the Director of Protective Services expressing the need for a permanent full time case worker on the island. She also mentioned the need for greater transparency regarding our referrals and seniors. Victoria gave a few examples of her cases wherein Protective Services could be helpful in providing support and services, including one with dementia living in substandard housing. Victoria described the process for getting access to the Lift, the VTA van for island disabled. It may cost riders \$2 per town. There was discussion.

Paul talked further about the efforts to get a Protective Services case worker on the island. Marvene suggested finding funding that did not come out of elder Affairs budget that might still provide for such a case worker. Paul said Community Services was doing that in part through Connect to End Violence where there was domestic violence in seniors' homes. Addressing Marvene's suggestion we appeal to our state legislators, Paul said he was working his way up the chain of command; the next step is the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, then to the state law makers.

Wendy brought in homemade fortune cookies made by our cook, Diane, which contained custom made Anchors-related fortunes.

There was further discussion of some Edgartown seniors and possible Protective Services referrals. Victoria also mentioned attempts to get tax abatements, and discounts on sewer and water bills for low income Edgartown elders, which is involved and time consuming.

Paul discussed Meris' tenure as our part time outreach worker. She will leave sometime the end of March; her salary is funded by the Vision Fellowship and our state grant formula. There was some discussion. Victoria then left the room.

New Business There was no new business.

The next meeting is March 15, 2018.

Upon motion by Marvene, seconded by Heidi, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 am.