

EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING

BOARD MEETING

February 16, 2017

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by Olga Church. Also present were Glenn Carpenter, Heidi Boyd and Administrator Paul Mohair. Kevin and Jay had advised they would not be able to attend. As senior member of the Board, Olga chaired the meeting.

Minutes Copies of proposed minutes from the January 19, 2017, meeting were distributed and read. Olga corrected the minutes so that Wendy's report identified Kate's last name as "Hancock," and not "Fuller". With that change, the minutes were adopted unanimously.

Friends of ECOA Report Barbara Phillips, Co-president of the Friends of the ECOA, was present and gave a report. Barbara said last year the Friends gave Wendy \$10,000 for programming [as they do annually], \$1,500 to have the floors refinished, \$4,240 for the sound dampening panels in the big/dining room, \$4,500 for our part-time outreach worker's salary, \$60 to buy a senior a space heater, \$1,200 for Anchors trips' liability insurance, and \$200 for both Christmas and Thanksgiving food surplus for needy seniors. The total is \$21,900. The Friends also contributed \$500 to the funeral expenses of an Edgartown senior.

Barbara said the Friends were having a meeting this afternoon at which they will be meeting with Fire Chief Shemeth and Health Department head Matt Poole with a plan to identify other seniors in Edgartown who may benefit from the Friends' resources. Barbara said she would like to "...reach out to the people who aren't able to come to the Anchors. Those are the people I want us to help. We are all in agreement on that."

Barbara said the recent \$500,000 bequest the Friends received is locked away and the Friends' long term goal is to put an addition on the Anchors big room. She said she has spoken to Pam Dolby, the town Administrator, who has spoken to Ron Rappaport, the town attorney, about expanding the big/dining room. Also, that Janice Donaroma will speak to an architect, Patrick Ahern, about donating a design. Barbara said the Friends are all in agreement and that they consider it the Friends' money and they want to be careful with it.

Olga asked how much was donated. Barbara said a half a million dollars. Olga asked Barbara how closely the Friends intended to work with the Board and the Anchors. Barbara said she did not know- she was new to the Friends and new as the president. Olga, said, as a former Friend, she thought the Friends should be much more engaged with the Anchors and its Board. Barbara said she agreed. There was discussion about Friends' fund raising and the Friends going out to anonymously help families. Barbara said the Friends "...want to be more actively involved in reaching people who don't come here." She mentioned one family for whom the Friends are buying a stove. Answering Paul's question, Barbara said this was a family of whom the Anchors staff is not aware. Paul thought it might be appropriate for the Anchors to do some outreach. Barbara said no, the family does not want that. Olga said she thought there should be more of a connection between what the Friends are planning and the Anchors Board and staff. Glenn said Paul and the Friends should approach each other when they know of a need.

Paul cautioned Barbara about using Friends' money for anything that was not a Council on Aging sponsored or related expense. Paul said the Friends' by-laws established the Friends as a financial support organization for the Council on Aging and that any money raised must be used for this purpose. He suggested the Friends review this. Barbara said the Friends were aware of this and discussed it. She said there were a lot of Edgartown seniors "under the radar" that they want to help and the Friends want to expand. Olga said these needs that the Friends have identified should be connected in some way with the Council on Aging. Needy seniors should be made aware the Anchors is available for support and as a resource for services. There was discussion. Barbara then left the meeting.

The Board discussed the Friends' practice of using its financial resources for expenses other than Anchors programming and outreach. Olga suggested speaking to Chief Shemeth whose wife, Nancy, was on our board. Other options were discussed.

Budget Paul distributed copies of the budget report with expenses as of February 13th. Expenses are about where they should be at this point in our fiscal year. There was general discussion and no specific questions. Glenn asked about our new part-time outreach worker. Paul said she will be introduced to the Board when Victoria

comes to the meeting.

For the record, Paul mentioned that Board members had signed a letter authorizing our President, Kevin, to sign all warrants for Anchors expenses pursuant to a recent state law that now prohibits Paul from doing so.

Administrator's Report Paul advised programs and events were well attended and that our Valentine's Day lunch was sold out and had a waiting list. We also showed a movie. Attendance is about the same as it was this time last year. The town Financial Advisory Committee did not require a hearing on our proposed FY 2018 budget because we requested no increases. Our proposed warrant for the \$6,000 to repair the Anchors Daggett Street fence was also not questioned.

Paul said he and Wendy were going on vacation for a week the end of the month and that the staff will cover in our absence.

Paul completed receptionist Donna's annual personnel evaluation.

Kevin had completed Paul's annual personnel evaluation, which included recommendations that Paul get more involved with the Friends and that he do more long term planning, anticipating the departure of the Center for Living.

Paul had sent Board members a recent MV Times article reporting the status of the Center's planned move to the VNA building. Leslie said she'd like to be in by September. Glenn thought it would be three more years. There was general discussion.

Director of Senior Services Report Wendy then entered the meeting. Wendy reported on March programs and events, including artists' displays, and middle school choral students performing at lunch. Olga and Kate Hancock will present an exhibit from the museum; we also have bowling, and a walking club at the Boys and Girls Club. Wendy has planned a trip to Eataly at the Prudential in Boston in April. Paul and Wendy will attend the annual hospital health fair on April 8th. The volunteer appreciation lunch will be in May, which hopefully will be a buffet and movie at the Film Center in Vineyard Haven.

Wendy said she has been planning for the space that will become available when the Day Program leaves. She has been keeping a log of suggestions from our seniors, which include art and painting classes, chair exercises, quilting, bridge, cribbage, cooking and ipad instructions, obituary classes, coffee hour, chair messages, music, and theatrical presentations, to name a few.

Wendy said there is a balance of \$7,000 and change in our special account which helps fund our lunches. Wendy then left the meeting.

Outreach Report Emily Serge, our new part-time outreach worker funded by our annual state grant, came to the meeting. She was welcomed by the Board. Emily reported on some of her cases, including TRI loan home improvement applications, assisting with Social Security benefits for a speech impaired senior, and attempting to get a stove for a disabled couple from Habitat for Humanity. Victoria entered the meeting at this time. Emily said she is also working on a number of fuel assistance applications.

Victoria read a thank you note she received from the couple for whom we are attempting to get a stove. The note thanked us for the many support services Victoria had coordinated.

Victoria mentioned she and Paul are working on the Safe Seniors program which is a form of island-wide neighborhood watch for vulnerable seniors at risk. This is a reincarnation of the old Gate Keepers program. There was discussion.

Victoria related a "victory" with Protective Services wherein she proposed a service plan for a client who is a hoarder with emotional disabilities, which Protective Services agreed with completely, including putting the client in a hotel while her house gets cleaned out.

Emily and Victoria then left the meeting.

Center for Living Report Paul said the previously mentioned MV Times article was a fairly thorough status report of the Center's plan for relocating; he had nothing to add.

New Business There was no new business.

Upon motion by Glenn, seconded by Heidi, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.