

**New Bedford Council on Aging
Advisory Board Meeting
August 11, 2016
181 Hillman Street, Bldg. 9**

CITY CLERKS OFFICE
NEW BEDFORD, MA

2016 OCT - 7 A 8: 58

MINUTES

CITY CLERK

Board Members Present:

Bruce Duarte, Chairman
Virginia Morrison, Secretary
Esperanza Alejandro-Berube
Stanley Oceisa
Joan Halter
George Smith
Joan Swain
Jane Stott
Mary Sullivan

Also Present

Debra Lee, COA Director
Cynthia Wallquist, Community Services Director
Karen Main, NB Adult Social Day Coordinator
Robin Richard, NB Adult Social Day Asst. Rec. Leader

Excused:

Inez Mello
Patricia Costa, Vice-Chair

The meeting was called to order at 9:05AM by the Chairman, Mr. Duarte.

Secretary's Report

Mr. Duarte asked the board members to read over the minutes to see if there were any questions. One correction was noted to be made in regards to members present at the last meeting. Correction was made.

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2016 meeting was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Oceisa. It was unanimously approved.

Appearances-

Karen Main, Adult Social Day Coordinator-

Ms. Main spoke highly about the progress being made at the adult social day program. She emphasized on the positive impact it has had on the participants' lives. One participant's wife stated such an improvement in her husband's demeanor since starting the program in July. Ms. Main also reported on another participant who started three days a week, but now the family brings her in five days a week since it has helped her memory.

Mrs. Lee reported that The New Bedford Social Day is now a vendor for Coastline Elderly Services. The contract to provide services was submitted and signed off. This will help to fill the slots for the program through the Information and Referral Department at Coastline. The Council on Aging in turn will refer people who are not otherwise connected currently with services to Coastline should they inquire about admission to the program. The Council on Aging will also refer folks who are connected and or make contact with their assigned case management people at Coastline.

Robin Richard, Adult Social Day Assistant Recreation Leader-

Mr. Richard passed out social day activity calendars. Mr. Richard is passionate about bringing music programs to the center. Mr. Richard stated that while playing music or trivia games with some participants memories are triggered that help to get the participants talking about their past and inevitably helping them to feel more comfortable in the program.

Mr. Smith asked about the any bathroom issues with the outside public. Ms. Main reported that there is a sign of the door in English, Portuguese and Spanish stating that there are no public restrooms on the premises and this has worked out well.

The board members thanked Ms. Main and Mr. Robin for their hard work and dedication to the program.

Ms. Lee stated that social day is a therapeutic atmosphere and helps seniors with their self-esteem. The program consists of 1-long term and 2-short term goals for each participant made by the coordinator based on the participants first two weeks in the program.

Old Business-

SNAP-

The New Bedford Council on Aging & Inter-Church Council was approved for the \$50,000 SNAP grant. The grant's goal is to sign 1,250 seniors by May 2018.

New Business-

Slate of officers will be in September's meeting.

SRTA-

Board members were in agreement to sign a letter requesting Sunday bus transportation.

A motion to send a letter to SRTA requesting Sunday transportation was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Stott. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman's Report-

Mr. Duarte asked about the progress at the thrift store. Ms. Lee informed the board members that it is better organized, but still in transition. Mr. Duarte asked about the repairs at Buttonwood and Ms. Lee stated that is hasn't started yet.

A motion to accept the Chairman's report was made Mr. Oceisa and seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director's Report-

Ms. Lee stated that everything was already discussed.

Community Services Director's Report-

Ms. Wallquist stated snow removal press release will shortly be in the newspaper. Ms. Wallquist also stated that there will be a three day mental health training offered to police officers. Ms. Wallquist had a meeting with Lt. Demers to discuss services needed for seniors in the north end of New Bedford.

A motion to accept the Community Services Director's Report was made by Ms. Swain and seconded by Ms. Sullivan. The motion was unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2016.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Swain. It was unanimously approved.

**New Bedford Council on Aging
Advisory Board Meeting
July 14, 2016
181 Hillman Street, Bldg. 9**

CITY CLERKS OFFICE
NEW BEDFORD, MA

2016 OCT -7 A 8:58

CITY CLERK

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Bruce Duarte, Chairman
Patricia Costa, Vice-Chair
Virginia Morrison, Secretary
Esperanza Alejandro-Berube
Stanley Oceisa
Joan Halter
George Smith
Joan Swain
Jane Stott
Inez Mello

Also Present

Debra Lee, COA Director
Pamela Amaral-Lema, COA Administrative Specialist

Excused:

Patricia Costa
Mary Sullivan

The meeting was called to order at 9:04AM by the Chairman, Mr. Duarte.

Secretary's Report

Mr. Duarte asked the board members to read over the minutes to see if there were any questions.

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2016 meeting was made by Ms. Stott and seconded by Mr. Smith. It was unanimously approved.

Old Business-

New Van-

Ms. Lee reported that the COA will receive the new van from MassDot.

Adult Social Day-

Ms. Lee reports that Social Day is going well. There are now 4 regular attendees on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The open house was a success. Many nearby agencies and representatives came to support the new venture. Now that the paperwork is all set with Coastline the referrals will be coming in shortly. Ms. Lee hopes to have 15-20 participants by next Spring.

Thrift Store-

Ms. Lee explains that a lot of work is still needed for the thrift store. It's mainly sorting through the items and getting shelves to place them on. She has had workers and volunteers working on the project. Ms. Lee reported that the thrift store will open every Monday and Friday.

New Business

SNAP-

Ms. Lee reported that there is a grant for \$50,000 to help seniors apply for SNAP benefits. Ms. Lee reported that the last time that they had this grant it needed 500 applicants, now with this grant 1,250 seniors would need to apply in over a 21 month period. This project collaboration would involve the New Bedford Council on Aging, Inter-Church Council and Community Services. The board members thanked Ms. Lee for a great job with the SNAP program.

Position Changes-

Ms. Lee reported several position changes. Firstly, she reported that Mr. Richard has moved to an assistant recreational leader at Social Day. Secondly, Ms. Lee reported that Mr. Hayes is the new clerk/typist. Ms. Duarte is now at Buttonwood and Ms. Main is at Brooklawn.

Chairman's Report-

Mr. Duarte was impressed with smoothly everything went at the Food Bank. Mr. Duarte attended Buttonwood and received several comments from participants. One concern that a senior had been about free transportation. Ms. Lee stated that we are now offering free transportation for seniors in the north end to attend Buttonwood or Hazelwood. Ms. Lee stated once more funding is available that they will look into offering more free transportation services. It was also suggested to reach out to SRTA to see if they can drop seniors off directly in front of Buttonwood.

Mr. Duarte stated about repairs needed at Buttonwood.

A motion to accept the Chairman's report was made Ms. Swain and seconded by Ms. Sullivan. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director's Report-

Ms. Lee reports that she just received the royalty from the Young and the Rest of Us newsletter for \$1,925.

A motion to accept the Director's Report was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Swain. The motion was unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2016.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Swain. It was unanimously approved.

**New Bedford Council on Aging
Advisory Board Meeting
June 9, 2016
181 Hillman Street, Bldg. 9**

CITY CLERKS OFFICE
NEW BEDFORD, MA

2016 OCT -7 A 8:57

CITY CLERK

Minutes

Board Members Present:

Bruce Duarte, Chairman
Patricia Costa, Vice-Chair
Virginia Morrison, Secretary
Esperanza Alejandro-Berube
Stanley Oceisa
George Smith
Joan Swain
Mary Sullivan
Jane Stott
Inez Mello

Also Present

Debra Lee, COA Director
Pamela Amaral-Lema, COA Administrative Specialist
Ann O' Donnell, EMoT, LICSW
Cynthia Wallquist, Community Services Director

Excused:

Joan Halter

The meeting was called to order at 9:02AM by the Chairman, Mr. Duarte.

Secretary's Report

Mr. Duarte asked the board members to read over the minutes to see if there were any questions. Ms. Costa had a question regarding the use of the money raised from the thrift store. Ms. Lee responded that any monies generated from sales will be deposited into the senior donation line to use for senior center programming.

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2016 meeting was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Sullivan. It was unanimously approved.

Appreances-

Ann O' Donnell, LICSW, EMoT-

Ms. Lee introduced Ms. O' Donnell as the new licensed social worker on the elder mobile outreach team. Ms. O' Donnell explained that she has worked for the department of mental health for over 20 years. She is excited about working with seniors and has reached out to many seniors who filled out the depression screening survey from last year. She has received a positive response from these seniors and now meets with a few on a regular basis whether it's weekly or bi-weekly . She hopes to start a few support groups for seniors who need socialization.

Mr. Oceisa asked Ms. O' Donnell if she travels to the senior centers. Ms. O' Donnell stated she is based out of Hillman St. and Buttonwood and is willing to travel to other centers if needed. Mr. Duarte and the board members thanked Ms. O' Donnell for her service.

Old Business-

Social Day-

Ms. Lee spoke about the developments of the new social day program slated at Brooklawn. Ms. Lee individually spoke with each group at Brooklawn to explain the new changes that will begin in July. Ms. Lee has made a brochure explaining the social day program and has passed it out with the newsletter to nearby health and medical offices.

Ms. Lee stated she had two seniors who have signed up to attend the program three days a week starting July 11th. The grand opening will be on July 11, 2016 @ 11AM.

Age Friendly Cities-

Ms. Lee reported that she is tallying the numbers from the age friendly cities survey. There are 10 members on the age friendly committee. They are looking for additional people from city departments. Mr. Oceisa complained about how the city sidewalks are not accessible for seniors and disabled individuals.

Chairman's Report-

Mr. Duarte asked about the attendance cost of the social day program. Ms. Lee stated that it is \$35 a day which includes a continental breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Mr. Duarte requested an update about the Hazelwood thrift store. Ms. Lee reported that they are transitioning between cleaning and processing what is worth having and what is not needed.

Mr. Smith spoke about Southcoast Counties Legal Services which is a free legal service for seniors in need.

Mr. Duarte expressed how pleased he is seeing the Council on Aging branch out to help serve seniors.

A motion to accept the Chairman's report was made Ms. Costa and seconded by Ms. Swain. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director's Report-

Ms. Lee stated that she received a petition from the Brooklawn bingo players that they opposed the changes. Ms. Lee reported that only 5% of the bingo players lived in the north end of New Bedford. Hazelwood senior center offers bingo on a Friday afternoon.

Ms. Lee reported that she was approached by the National Council on Aging regarding a new SNAP grant. It is a \$50,000 grant that would help fund salaries of individuals assisting seniors apply for SNAP assistance. These individuals would have to assist 1,250 seniors over a 21 month span apply for SNAP benefits. It will be a joint effort between the New Bedford Council on Aging and Inter-Church Council.

Ms. Lee is attending the City Council Finance Committee on July 20th to discuss the social day revolving fund.

The food pantry has been successful. The first month had 28 seniors receiving the assistance and now there are over 78 seniors receiving this service.

A motion to accept the Director's Report was made by Ms. Stott and seconded by Ms. Costa. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director of Community Services Report-

Ms. Wallquist reported that Fresh Start will have mill space soon. Also, Ms. Wallquist informed the board that she will have a financial breakdown at the next meeting after the City Council approves the FY17 budget. Ms. Wallquist doesn't anticipate any cuts will be made by the Council.

Ms. Wallquist report that they are looking for a new Tai Chi instructor for Buttonwood since the previous instructor is physically unable to teach it any longer.

Ms. Wallquist has received calls regarding snow removal for the upcoming winter season.

The board members thanked Ms. Wallquist for everything she does for seniors in the community.

A motion to accept the Director of Community Services report was made by Mr. Oceisa and seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion was unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 14, 2016.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Swain and seconded by Ms. Costa. It was unanimously approved.