

Fairhaven Council on Aging
Board Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2022

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2022 APR 12 A 10:57

Present: Martha Reed, Jack Oliveira, Joan Mello, Susan Oiestad, Carol Burt, Robert Ryan
Absent: Lee Allaire

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

The meeting was legally posted on Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am.

Carol Burt made a motion to accept the March 2022 minutes.

Financial Report

COA:

March Expenditures: \$18,552.15

YTD Expenditures: \$108,886.95

Motion to accept the financial report made by Jack Oliveira and second by Bob Ryan.

Old Business:

- * The Senior Office Assistant position has yet to be filled. Anne Silvia has been hired as temporary part time until the position has been filled.
- * The ARAW Grant has expired as of March 31, 2022. The ladies who were supported by the Grant will continue to receive the same support directly from the ARAW rather than going through the Fairhaven COA. The ladies received a letter from the ARAW explaining that they are to contact the ARAW with any questions or requests.

New Business:

- The 2022 Formula Grant check has been received at the Town Hall. The amount remains as \$50,052.00, same as past 2 years.
- Since the COA has reopened and Covid cases are significantly lower, the COA will happily accept volunteers to return in various capacities. We are especially in need of medical transportation drivers.
- The COA has again this year received a generous donation from a Fairhaven resident who will be purchasing 100 Easter dinners from Mac's for Fairhaven seniors to enjoy this Easter. Since Covid cases are significantly lower, the COA will be hosting a sit down dinner at the senior center on Easter Day as well as delivering dinners to those who prefer to eat at home. Volunteers will be assisting in both the dinner and the deliveries.
- The COA and the kids at the Kool Kids Summer Program at the Rec Center will be enjoying an intergenerational program painting "Kindness Rocks". Another intergenerational program will also be planned between the 2 groups.

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Director's Report
April 11, 2022

1. Personnel Changes: Annette Dantoni's (Senior Office Assistant) last day was March 22, 2022. The job opening was posted internally, as required by the terms of the union contract. No applicants came forward. As noted in the prior report, the topic of whether or not this needs to be a full-time 35 hours per week position was discussed with Interim Town Administrator. Due to this being a union position, the ITA and now the new TA is looking into whether this is feasible under the terms of the current union contract. Until a decision is made, Anne Silvia has been hired as a temporary part-time person.
2. Senior Center/Program Utilization March 2022: 452 unduplicated seniors utilized the COA last month. There were a total of over 1,200 "swipes" for events. In March, all available appointments for foot care, elder attorney, and AARP tax preparers were utilized.
3. Community Needs: Although it is my first month, the most significant needs being expressed by the clients looking for services have been affordable housing and food insecurity. We have successfully enrolled 5 clients into the SNAP program to help with food insecurity. We have assisted those in need of housing to apply to open waiting lists in the area. We have not been able to locate any affordable market-rate units and have spoken with two realtors who said that affordable rentals are impossible to find at this time.
4. SRTA Van: Unfortunately, it was not feasible for the SRTA Van to be turned over to the COA. So Van #3 was returned to SRTA on March 25, 2022.
5. ARAW grant: ended on March 31, 2022. All Fairhaven COA clients were notified and have been assigned a new case manager directly from the ARAW. Future Fairhaven women that qualify for ARAW services will be referred directly to ARAW.
6. In-person events: Attendance and desire for in-person events continues to rise. The Single Senior Supper Club being held on 4/19/22 has over 45 persons already registered. Many instructors have been contacting the COA about setting up programs for the summer, and we are working on building the summer calendar.

7. Coastline Board of Directors: The Coastline Board of Directors approved my appointment to their BOD to represent Fairhaven. I have already attended the orientation, and my first meeting will be on Thursday, 4/21/22. Unfortunately, this will conflict with the newly scheduled Director's Drop-In hour so we will shift the day to the third Friday of the Month from 10:30 to 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Reed
Executive Director

Next meeting: May 9, 2022 at 9:00am
Motion to adjourn made by Bob Ryan and second by Jack Oliveira.
Meeting was adjourned at 9:20am

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Silvia (Temp Office Assistant)
4/11/2022