

**City of Chicopee
Council of Aging
January 8, 2019**

Members Present: S. Tawrel, H. Lenart, K. Rousseau, S. Gelinas, E. LaFlamme, K. LaBreck, C. Gemme, S. Michalik, J. Lukasik, L. Houle

Staff: H. D'Angelo

Excused: M. Rider

I. Call to order

- The meeting was called to order at 4:45pm. There was no request to record the meeting.

II. Public input

- There was no public input for the meeting. Zygmunt Wachta attended as a guest and expressed an interest in what the COA does and its function.

III. Review of minutes

- Minutes were reviewed from Dec 11, 2018. There was a question about what type of car was purchased. It is a Ford, electric and there has been a lot of positive feedback. Charging stations are to be installed in the parking lot. Minutes were and accepted as presented.

IV. Business Reports

A. Fiscal Report

- The fiscal report for Manyak distributed to all members for December and it was noted that the center remains on target for projects. The expense to replace the mirror was finally reported in the listing. A question was raised about the project coordinator but there is no salary reflected because it is covered by the Formula Grant. They recently interviewed and excellent candidate for a tech position and they are hopeful this role will soon be filled.
- There was a question about how the materials are maintained by the members. It was noted that this is public information and there are no

names attached to salaries. A member suggested that this material be shredded when members no longer wish to maintain them.

- The report was accepted as presented.

B. Executive Director's Report

- The Executive director's report was distributed to the group. Holly, attending for S. Manyak highlighted some key points. Some workers were in today to "balance the system" for heating. C. Gemme noted that last month's bill for electricity was \$1200 but this month it was \$500 higher. This could be related to the need to use space heaters to keep offices at tolerable temperatures. This may need to be addressed in budgeting if the heating issues cannot be resolved.
- The program tech interview went very well.
- A luncheon is being considered for the volunteer recognition. This would mean that the center would need to close early so this is an important consideration. Sherry and Holly will meet with the Mayor next week to discuss. Sherry and Holly are looking at the Castle of the Knights and the Moose Lodge as options.
- A special dance is planned on Feb 11th in an effort to promote attendance from the Latino population.

C. S.A.L.T. Report

- Next meeting Jan 11, 2019. Discussion at the November member was around vaping and the risk to children. The 2019 poster contest topics were discussed but no decision was made but there are 5 topics that have been proposed including cell phone safety, pedestrian safety, abuse and others. Smoke detectors from the Rotary Club are no longer available but the Fire Department will assist people with installation. The letter is due out in January to classrooms.

D. Friends of the Senior Center Meeting

- The last meeting was Friday on 11/9 and next meeting is January 11, 2019. There has been a focus on trying to streamline membership. There is an effort to ensure the processing of membership cards. A question was raised about promoting

membership. This will be part of the discussion at the next meeting. There are currently 120 members this year.

E. RiverMills Café report

- A report on expenses and revenue for the café for December and there continues to be a good profit. There continues to be a lot of positive feedback about the food that is available. Smoothies were a new item this week. There have been some new volunteers added during morning hours.

F. Property tax work off

- Applications will be sought for property tax relief volunteers. People can apply every other year. A total of 20 people are selected each year. You must work 50 hours to have \$500 reduced off two separate tax bills.

H. Budget

- It will soon be time to begin budgeting for the year. Sherry has not received any information about the next fiscal year. The COA board will be asked for recommendations, pending this process.

I. Volunteer Awards for annual recognition

- It is time to begin considering candidates for volunteer awards. These awards are presented at the annual recognition dinner.

V. Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm

Submitted by



Karen S. Rousseau