

**City of Chicopee
Council of Aging
Octoberber 11, 2022**

Members Present: S. Gelinas, S. Michalik, K. Rousseau, K. LaBreck, H. Lenart, C. Gemme, L. Houle, M. Rider, L. Lavoie

Staff: S. Manyak

Absent: D. Naumchuck

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.

III. Review of minutes

- A.** Minutes were reviewed and accepted from September 13, 2022, with the notation that Laura was absent.

IV. Business Reports

- A.** Executive Director Report - The executive director's report was circulated to the group for review.
- There are a number of activities coming up at RiverMills and are publicized in the newsletter
 - There is a city-wide career fair scheduled on November 4th. There will be fire trucks and other heavy machinery for DPW as part of this recruitment. Many departments have large numbers of openings, including 5 at RiverMills.
 - The Christmas Tree fundraiser will be conducted again this year.
 - The annual Thanksgiving dinner will be on Nov 16th and will be capped at 700 this year. There will be a meal at lunchtime as well as dinner. Participants can sign up for one of the options or a to-go option.
 - There is a holiday dinner also planned for December and an ugly sweater contest.

- The end of summer dance was really successful, and people requested more events. There will be a dance event every other month based on this feedback
- The Bright Nights buses will be available once again this year.
- There is a remote Norway Holiday Lights program.
- There is also a reptile show scheduled.
- Breakfast with a police officer is planned for December.
- The Historical Society will present on Chicopee falls “Before the Wrecking Ball”
- The Photography club has moved its display from the Library to RiverMills and all are for sale.
- RiverMills is now a SNAP provider and Beth the social worker meets with the participants to assist in completing applications. Fuel Assistance requests have also been on the rise.
- Lauraalso provided a talk on dementia that had a lot of participants in attendance.

B. Café

- Sherry will start reporting on both the Café and Lunch program so that board members are aware of the revenue and participation. The to-go lunches sell out every day. People arrive in the morning looking for the menu, so the Café continues to be very popular. The soup is now back on the menu

C. Fiscal Reports

- The fiscal reports for September were distributed to the group for review. The Formula Grant money is not reflected in the reports but will be reflected when this funding starts to flow into the center.
- A question was raised about the dishwasher. Sherry continues to interview for this position but has not successfully found a candidate.
- The fiscal report was unanimously accepted by the group.

D. Friends of RiverMills

- The group has not met since last month.
- The building is completely paid off and there is surplus funding from donations.
- Pergolas are being researched for future purchase. There is also interest in getting lighting for the patio.
- The work will be held off until spring when the weather improves.

E. Maintenance Department

- The department is fully staffed at this time
- The current focus is moving all summer furniture and equipment to storage and moving the winter supplies out.
 - The storage is becoming limited and there are some items that need to be eliminated.
- The Director of Maintenance position is now posted

F. Staffing

- New clerk started 10/11/22.
- The transportation coordinator is not posted yet. The part time person resigned so the position was increased to be full time and RiverMills is waiting for approval to post.
- There is new full-time driver and the participants have provided positive feedback

G. Holiday Party

- The group discussed options for a location. The preference is for a Chicopee restaurant. The recommendation was Milano's on December 13th following the regular monthly meeting.

H. Festival of Trees

- A question was raised whether the Board would sponsor a tree for the festival. Sue Tawrel volunteered to help organize the tree for the group. Members are asked to provide a donation to help support this effort.

I. New Business

- Laura Lavoie is now on the Western Mass Elder Care board. She will be providing highlights of activities at RiverMills at their meetings. Sherry will meet with Laura to discuss this reporting process.

V. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm

- **Next meeting is November 8, 2022.**

Submitted by

Karen Rousseau

Karen S. Rousseau