Council on Aging Meeting October 10, 2023 (presented on November 14, 2023)

The October meeting of the Council on Aging was held at the Bellingham Senior Center Chairperson Kay Page called the meeting to order at 11:03 am. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag followed by a moment of silence. All members of the Board were present with the exception of Mingming He, Wendy Wright and Glenna Laverdiere. 10 persons from the public were also present.

Kay Page: Regarding the secretary’s proposal, we do not need a proposal nor need a vote on reading the COA minutes. The COA’s responsibility is that the minutes be posted, which is the only requirement that we have. If the minutes are not posted at the senior center, they must be posted at the town hall.

**Secretary's Report** (Brenda Griffin): Motion to accept minutes was made by Tina Arsenault, seconded by Tsune Roberts with unanimous approval by the board.

 **Treasurer's Report (**Tina Arsenault):

Monthly general fund financial report:

* Postage $428
* Electricity & Gas heat $125
* Office Equipment & Contracts $132
* Professional Services $248
* Janitorial Services $372
* Office Supplies $328
* Operating Supplies & Equipment $336

For a total of $1,973

* COA Gift Fund-current balance of $26,094
* Supportive Day -current balance of $37,323
* Elderly Recreation-current balance of $16,056

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Brenda Griffin, seconded by Tsune Roberts with unanimous approval by the board.

**Report (**Kay Page):

Thank you to everyone who helped with the COA Breakfast on 9/23. The food was absolutely delicious and there were ~70 attendees.

The 60th Birthday Party was wonderful. Josie’s vision was really great, it was a fun night and the food was great. Josie: Everyone did a great job-well done and people loved it. COA & BESG members sat at the different tables and it was such a fun night. Mike Soter was just the right touch-everyone felt so special & received individual proclamations. We’ll make it an annual October event.

Craft Fair is Nov 4 and we are almost ready. We are still accepting donations to Eva (no furniture, clothing, shoes or electronics).

**BESG Update** (Bill Eltzroth-President):

October BD party will feature chicken parmesan. Everyone should come dressed for Halloween. There will probably be prizes.

The November and December BD parties will be combined.

12/9 is the Christmas party at noon

12/30 is the New Year’s Party at noon at the VFW

Josie: There has recently been some confusion regarding who pays or not at the BD party. It may be due to people attending for the 1st time. Those who turn 90 or older during the birthday month that the party is offered are invited to come for free. Discussion: Maybe we need to add information in the Bulleting about the function of the COA Board and BESG board especially with 297 people turning 60 this year. Eva: At the beginning of our joint functions, we should address the functions of the two boards & introduce the members. It would be a great way to stress who we are and what we do. Bill: there was a great turnout at the BD parties. Kay: Both boards work very well together. Back when Laura was here, we started writing messages each month in the bulletin. Everyone enjoys reading our newsletters and we get compliments from other senior centers. The messages confirm our partnerships, Dave’s articles are always interesting as are all contributions. Discussion: We need to have more of a ‘sales mindset’. For the Ham & Bean supper we have Susan McCloud (entertainer), door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Some dinners have entertainment. We need to add more details in our newsletter especially with all the new 60-year-olds. Maybe post flyers. Fundraisers, like the Ham and Bean Dinner, are for everyone and everyone should bring a friend. Add more details to the electronic signs in the front. We think that everyone knows-but they don’t and we need to remember who is the audience.

**Director's Report** (Josie Dutil-Executive Director): September 2023 Summary – Presented at October 10th, 2023 Meeting

There is a war going on which is tragic and we have friends who are hurting. Hamas is a terrorist group.

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights: New and clean floors have helped us create a more welcoming space – grateful for all of the work that got done this past month and for the State Formula Grant funds that helped pay for it all. We enjoyed a wonderful COA Breakfast on Saturday, September 23rd with a very special guest, Denis Fraine, showing up. Thank you to Kay Page for leading the effort and to Tsune Roberts, Tina Arseneault, Paul Arseneault, Mitzy Eltzroth and Erin for all your help. And to Eva for selling raffle tickets for our annual craft fair baskets. We got official word at the end of September that work will begin on our cement slab and kitchen equipment upgrade soon!! Dig Safe is done and we hope to break ground before the 1st frost.

UPCOMING EVENTS-PROJECTS-SIGNUPS-NOTICES

* Rainbow Jeopardy takes place this coming Thursday, October 12th at 2:30pm.
* Jeff Loverude will join us again on Friday, October 13th to lead a Theme Song Trivia at

 1pm.

* Paul Arsenault will be doing his talk on First Ladies, Monday 10/16 at 11am.
* Tech Connect and Quilling are both taking place next Tuesday, October 17th at 1pm – Quilling is an art form that involves the use of strips of paper that are rolled, shaped, and glued together to create decorative designs.
* The Fashion Show that was scheduled for October 19th has been cancelled.
* We are in need of part time employees – van drivers and a custodian. Please help us spread the word!! 19.5 hours-maybe someone you know would be interested, newly retired. We can work with someone’s schedule early am or in the pm after closing. It would be great to have someone who is handy.

**Other Business /Public Segment:**

Tsune Roberts: I’m sometimes asked to clean up an area on the floor. I’m happy to help but couldn’t someone go in the janitors closet to get the cleaning materials? Josie: Redirect the requesting person to the front desk for assistance. Official volunteers and guests should not go into the janitor’s closet-this is a safety & liability issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM on a motion by Tina Arsenault, seconded by Tsune Roberts with unanimous approval by the board.

 Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Griffin-secretary