Council on Aging Meeting September 12, 2023 (presented on October 10, 2023)

The scheduled September meeting of the Council on Aging was held at the Bellingham Senior Center Chairperson Kay Page called the meeting to order at 11:02 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 Members at Large Mingming He, Glenna Laverdiere, Wendy Wright and Associate Member Stephen Racicot. 7 persons from the public were also present.

**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): Financials-we don’t have anu updated financials as the town’s finances have not been rolled into the new fiscal year as of yet.

Town-14% of $267,397.00 spent as of 9-5-2023.

Monthly general fund financial report:

* Postage $935.00
* Electricity $111.00
* Office Equipment & Contracts $132.00
* Professional Services $604.00
* Janitorial Services $655.00
* Office Supplies $264.00
* Operating Supplies & Equipment $336.00

Gift Fund, Supportive Day and Elderly Recreation rolling funds from 2023 have not been completed- thus there is no starting balance to report.

Lunches come out of the Gift Fund.

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):

Reminder: COA Breakfast is 9/23 from 9-11am. All Bellingham residents are invited. About 50 have registered already. Town Pizza is catering-they always provide a delicious breakfast. Please sign-up.

Yard Sale was a great day. Left overs (4 car loads) were donated to Riverside.

BD party for those over 60 on Oct 5 at 6pm. Would like all COA Board members and BESG members to attend. 19 have signed up. BESG crew will be providing the BBQ and cooking.

Crafts Fair is Nov. 4. We are accepting donations.

**BESG Update** (Jim Fitzpatrick Vice-President):

Yard sale earned over $1,100. Got the sheds cleaned out and all deliveries accomplished

9/28 Birthday Party with clam chowder and clam cakes by Mickey G.

10/14 Ham and Bean dinner

Oct 26 Birthday party and Halloween party with chicken parmesan by Chef du Jour. Please wear costumes

**Director's Report** (Josie Dutil-Executive Director):

August 2024 Summary – Presented at September 12th, 2023 Meeting

* The yard sale was phenomenal. We were blessed with volunteers for the setup and breakdown and Eva’s leadership throughout. Kids from BVT assisted on Thursday.

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights: The AC in our building worked hard during the month of August, so hard that the units in the attic started making some squealing noises letting us know they needed some attention. Tim Aicardi is aware of the situation and making plans to have all system belts replaced at the end of this cooling season. And hopefully you all noticed the shiny floors! Stanley Steamer was here on Sunday, September 4th for over 12 hours getting this polishing job done, a job funded by the State Formula Grant.

Window mechanisms are staying open-Tim ordered parts last year but have not arrived. Tim and Greg (electrician) are assessing whether our electricity runs under our building.

Kitchen renovation needs prodding. Go to Beth’s office and attend the Select Board meeting to push the issue. Kay and others are attending the Select Board meeting on September 18. The $350,000 must have all contracts signed by 12/31/24. Bids take a long time-needing pricing and contracts with reputable contractors. If it is not contracted out and spent by 12/31/2024 we can’t keep the money, we have a stipulated contract.

UPCOMING EVENTS-PROJECTS-SIGNUPS-NOTICES

We have some floors being replaced in the next few weeks. Next Friday, September 15th, the carpet in the lobby area will be replaced with carpet tiles. The job should be completed in one day.

On the following Friday, September 22nd, the carpet in the billiards room will be replaced with the same flooring that the Supportive Day Room currently has. These building enhancements are being paid through the state formula grant, an annual grant awarded to COA’s that is based on the number of seniors who live in the town. The FY24 Formula Grant was increased with the signing of the current state budget from $12/senior to $14/senior – great news for us! The funding is based on the 2020 census of senior residents. It is not based on the senior center check-in process but we are required to submit an annual report to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and those check-ins show how many people we serve.

Please consider joining us for Kalifornia Karl on Friday, September 22nd at 11:30am.

And Seema Kenny will be presenting The History of Ellis Island on Friday, September 29th at 1pm.

On Thursday, October 5th at 6pm, the BESG and COA Board will be hosting a first annual 60th Birthday Party for all those born in 1963. The goal of hosting such an event is to ensure that the 60+ population in Bellingham is familiar with all that the senior center has to offer, as well as inform them of the many tax breaks available.

Pat: Vibes has been postponed to November? Josie: yes, it is about a 90-minute program about what energy vibes are, the impacts of vibes and what an individual’s vibe brings to a situation. I’m doing this presentation at the MCOA Conference and will then repeat the presentation at the senior center.

**Other Business /Public Segment**

Abby: Is the senior center able to help seniors if they are not able to get out for groceries. Josie & Kay: Staff at the senior center make every attempt to help seniors that do not have family & friend supports to meet their needs in the fairest manner possible.

Tsune: I’ve been devoted to the senior center garden for 10 years. I’m finding people going into the garden and picking produce. I think we need to start garden committee next year identifying responsibilities. Josie: It is exciting to identify a garden problem after many years of having a garden failing to produce. Dave’s leadership with planting, watering and weeding with new soil has been wonderful. Dave: I’ve not been able to identify anyone Mon-Sun to harvest the crop nor with the weekly weeding. Tsune has been wonderful and so dependable with the watering. Josie: Dave will be on the committee to create policies. We are so happy to have this problem.

Tsune: There is a sign in the kitchen “wash hands before food handling”. I wash my hands and use a paper towel, wash hands before putting on gloves and remind others as well. What is the background on this sign? Josie: I put the sign up because of the Serve Safe law which is required because we serve food to the public. There is a Serve Safe class this afternoon which Terri and I are attending because our certification expires in October. Others who help in the kitchen are attending as well. Josie & Kay: Tsune-thank you! You are always thinking and raising important issues for us to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 on a motion by Tina Arsenault, seconded by Tsune Roberts with unanimous approval by the board.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Griffin-secretary