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Rehoboth Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
@ Gladys L. Hurrell Rehoboth Senior Center
Minutes of January 27, 2016

- 1) **Call to order**---7:02 pm
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3) **Members Present**--- Neal Harrington, Robert McKim, Dr. Robert Lambe, Ronald Whittemore, Marjorie Johnston, MaryBeth Moriarty, Sue Laverdiere and Linda Sherman
Members Excused--- None
Guests Present---Dot Conlow, Dot Amaral and Kimberly Robens
- 4) **Review past months meeting minutes**--- November 18, 2015 Regular-No corrections needed--motioned by Dr. Robert Lambe and seconded by Marjorie Johnston.
- 5) **Presentations**--- Nothing to report.
- 6) **Expense Report**---November and December budgets overall look great. S. Laverdiere had a question on why the COA Breakfast was higher on the 1st week of Dec.- was combined with the last week of Nov. due to the Holiday week. R. Whittemore questioned the BESI acct. and why the numbers fluctuated each month- was explained that the C.O.A.'s payments are received at different intervals so some months payment amounts may be doubled. S. Laverdiere questioned when the C.O.A. would receive their Formula Grant payment for Fiscal Year 15-16, because the Formula Grant account is in the red. Linda Sherman-C.O.A. Director has been following up with her contact for the Formula Grant budget and hopefully will receive payment within a few weeks.—Budget questions answered motioned by Dr. Robert Lambe and S. Laverdiere seconded.
- 7) **Director's Report**---Have done lots of pillowcases- made and donated 100 for Sturdy Hospital~ along with some hats as well, 103 pillowcases for the Food Pantry during the Holiday Season. Attendance for Exercise classes have increased. The D.R. Lion's Club –Junior Leos have volunteered to help our Seniors with raking, shoveling, computer questions, etc.... Breakfast with Santa hosted by TRIAD was a lot of fun and went very well. Seniors also had their Holiday dinner with the Lion's Club. Personal Best- Physical Therapy stopped by the C.O.A. and spoke with the Seniors. Sheila from Designs by Sheila Florist came in and donated her time and some flowers to make arrangements with the Seniors for a small donation. The C.O.A. sewing group will be teaming up with "Dress a Girl around the World" to make dresses out of pillowcases with their LOGO for young girls in need from underprivileged communities around the world. The organization helps young girls who are victimized by sexual predators. R. Whittemore asked how we found out about this organization~ Linda Sherman replied- RYCO Fabric, which donates a lot of fabric to us here at the C.O.A. asked if we would be interested in helping with this great cause. "We do mainly help with local causes but wanted to try something different to help out as well". The sewing ladies agreed that it would be great to help out for this great cause for the girls in need. Dressing these girls would help show that they are cared for and looked after by "Dress a Girl around the World" and would be left alone by predators. Dr. Robert Lambe agreed that the Senior Center has been really busy and looked great- Motioned to accept the 2 Director's Reports ~ S. Laverdiere motioned and Neal H seconded.
- 8) **Old Business**---Heat, Freezer and the Refrigerator-Dr. Robert Lambe asked if R. Whittemore could bring the C.O.A. Board up to date and explain about ongoing issues with the Heat- The louvre system/makeup air system in the basement boiler room is a much more complicated issue than originally thought. ***Have had 3 no heat issues in the last 27 days and extensive repairs will be necessary.*** Dave Perry and Chairman Mike Costello are aware of the continuing issues and are looking into replacing the heating system, which has been too problematic.

-Last calendar year alone has had repair costs of over \$6,400. Our Town Maintenance- Mr. Souza and one of his employees along with 2 other heating experts from a Stoughton heating company, came in for almost 5 hours to diagnose the existing problems and try to figure out how to repair the heating system. R. Whittemore explained that ***we are in urgent need of a new heating system*** here which will also incorporate in having to include a new louvre system and moving the hot water heater (which is not in the right place) in the basement as well. S. Laverdiere asked how much something like this would cost us. R. Whittemore explained that he was not sure how much a repair of this kind would cost. Dr. R. Lambe asked if we had an oil or gas heating system and if the boiler and air circulation system would have to be replaced together. R. Whittemore explained that it was a gas system and both the boiler and louvre system would have to be replaced together. Dr. R. Lambe asked if the heating issue was resolved for the time being and Linda Sherman replied that Mr. Souza came in and replaced a needed part for the boiler to turn on. R. Whittemore commended both Linda and Mr. Souza for alternating coming in on their days off (without getting paid) to check on the building's heat so that the pipes wouldn't freeze during the below freezing cold spell that we had recently. The C.O.A. Board thanked both of them for doing this to help out. S. Laverdiere agreed that it was time to replace the heating system.

-R. Whittemore also mentioned that we would also eventually ***need to replace the compressor for the kitchen refrigerator***, (which would include moving it next to the freezer compressor-a aluminum stand would have to be made prior and set in place for this project-this would make it easier to maintain and save some needed space) Bristol Plymouth High School came here and replaced our freezer compressor earlier this year, (which was funded solely through our B.E.S.I. account) and have agreed to help us out this Spring with refrigerator as well.

-Also to add on our list would be to ***purchase a backup generator*** for the C.O.A. center as well in the future here. A backup generator would be quite helpful here at the C.O.A. center during the cold winter months or if any of the Seniors lost their electrical power at home due to inclement weather. We could help our Seniors here to come and keep warm, have something to eat, charge their cell phones, etc.... during the day. This would also be helpful during the hot summer months as well to cool off with air conditioning. Dr. Lambe asked if there was anything else and if agreed with R. Whittemore. S. Laverdiere motioned and M. Johnston seconded.

9) New Business---Nothing to report.

10) B.E.S.I. Report---L. Sherman stated Meals on Wheels has been doing well with no issues and running smoothly and Bruce Thayer is our liaison. L. Sherman stated that we work very well together with B.E.S.I. S. Laverdiere asked if we made any progress with collecting any private contact information for the Seniors who receive the meals in case there were any issues. L. Sherman explained that it leaves the liability with B.E.S.I. and not the Town. L. Sherman also stated that she is very proud of our Town Police and Ambulance Dept. because they keep in constant contact with her if there are any concerns with our local Seniors. Other C.O.A. Centers handle things differently and our process is run much more smoothly in comparison. S. Laverdiere asked what the other C.O.A. centers complaints were and L. Sherman explained that they had a hard time staying in constant contact or getting any follow ups with B.E.S.I. regarding their Seniors. Our Town Police and Ambulance Dept. are in direct contact with me letting me know what is happening and what actions need to be taken. Instead of waiting for B.E.S.I., we can take action immediately to help our Seniors in need. This process just works much better for us here.

11) Friends of the Rehoboth Elderly Report---Nothing to report- have not met since November of 2015 due to the Holidays and the scheduling. Next meeting scheduled is for the 3rd Monday in February at 10:00am. R. Whittemore asked S. Laverdiere how the fuel assistance program budget looked and if any more donations were needed. S. Laverdiere was not sure on the exact budget and if it was low because Mr. Moriarty handles that part, but did say that any donations are greatly appreciated for our Seniors in urgent need of emergency fuel assistance, especially during these extra cold months when they are in extreme need to keep warm. The annual Fund Raising Drive did happen in the Fall – and didn't raise as much as they have previously. They have been fortunate enough to have a mild winter thus far and have not needed to use the funds as much. L. Sherman said that she is so greatly appreciative for the Friend of the Rehoboth Elderly because she can always count on them when there is a Senior in great need for fuel and they respond so quickly within a day or two. "Rehoboth Friends of the Elderly are so helpful and we really appreciate their generosity". S. Laverdiere explained that they help with other needs as well like Life-

-Line and Podiatry services for our Seniors, these services are confidential and that they are also a non-profit organization.

12) Correspondence---Nothing to report.

13) C.O.A. Building usage---None

14) Open Forum---R. Whittemore wanted to make a comment on the My Senior STATS report for month of Dec. and the amount of 1259 stop ins that came to visit the center which is about an average of 60/day. L. Sherman commented on how busy the center is here and R. Whittemore agreed. S. Laverdiere brought a friend of hers in from East Providence to visit our Rehoboth center and she was very impressed on how comparable we were with the East Providence Senior Center, even though we are a smaller community here. We offer a lot of services for our Seniors here as well.

15) Other Business Issues---NONE

16) Adjournment---7:32pm- Dr. Robert Lambe motioned to adjourn meeting- Neal Harrington seconded motion.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Robens- Secretary*

Approved by:



Dr. Robert Lambe
C.O.A. Board President

Next COA Board Meeting- To Be Determined