

## **Chatham County Council on Aging**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

**September 29, 2016**

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**Members Present:** Louis Forrissi, Emily Foushee, Jim Hackney, Kathy Meredith, Larry Ross, Gerald Strobe, Michael Nowicki, Nansi Greger-Holt, Tamara Patterson, Jim Wall, Stephanie Faris

**Members Absent:** David Marty, Kalyan Ghosh, and Kathy Brommage

**Council Personnel Present:** Dennis Streets, Sadie McLaurin, Brett Moraes, Melanie Girard

**Guest:** John Grimes, Mayor of Siler City

#### **Welcome**

Larry Ross called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm, at the Western Chatham Senior Center and welcomed Siler City Mayor John Grimes. Mayor Grimes updated the Board about efforts to boost economic development in the area, including Mountaire Farms, a \$500,000 infrastructure grant, and the mega-site. He also discussed a grant to modernize and reopen the city's public swimming pool.

Following Mayor Grimes, Ross introduced Melanie Girard, the Council's Communications and Development Director. Using power-point slides, Girard began by discussing progress in use of social media (asking Board members to "like" the Council's Facebook), updating of communication materials, promotion of Say Yes!, advancements with E-tapestry, recent submission of grants, ideas for sponsorships, and fundraising efforts (including appeal to realtors) and the need for help with fundraising. Ross emphasized the need for Board support of fundraising activities. The Board had a very good dialog with Girard and offered a number of suggestions. There was a strong endorsement of the idea of a sponsorship package. Stephanie Faris suggested that Girard "google" the Council on Aging to assess the organization's visibility. Nansi Greger-Holt recommended asking each new participant how they learned about COA. Jim Wall shared his experience with fundraising and indicated that he would check with some fellow pastors to gauge their view of the idea of a Casino night fundraiser. Louis Forrissi announced that he was exploring a fundraiser involving the selling of T-shirts for the Friday night dances. He also mentioned that the Pittsboro Postmaster asked him to examine how the Post Office might be able to help Center participants mail their gifts and cards during the holiday season.

After Dennis Streets shared photos from September activities (including those of the Senior Day at the County Fair, the building of a Say Yes! ramp, and the Invite Your Pastor to Lunch event), Ross requested the Board's consideration of the August minutes. They were approved unanimously on a motion by Jim Hackney, seconded by Mike Nowicki.

## **Committee Work**

### Finance Committee

Hackney highlighted the financial statements for August, noting the adjustment of some items to better reflect their timing throughout the year (e.g., Senior Center General Purpose and Frozen Meals revenue).

In presenting an Investment Worksheet, Hackney noted that cash accounts support three months of operating expenses. He mentioned effective use of a Managed Account fund could lead to about \$9,400 in annual income. Because of difficulties in establishing and using the Ameritrade Account, the Finance Committee recommended changing from Ameritrade to the Edward Jones firm. With Board member Kathy Brommage serving as an Edward Jones financial advisor, it was decided to explore whether there would be any direct benefit to Brommage that could be perceived as a conflict of interest. In the event that there were any concerns, the Board recommended that another local Edward Jones agent be used to manage an account, The Board approved this approach on a motion by Nowicki, seconded by Jerry Strobe.

### Programs & Services Committee

Kathy Meredith mentioned that there had been an uptick in the number of meals served. She noted that a contract had been signed with the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) for the provision of Meals on Wheels.

Meredith discussed the issue of congregate nutrition and senior center participants whose functional status is declining such they may require some personal care. It was noted that this is a matter that is of increasing concern statewide. The Committee will continue to work with staff on assuring that the Council's participant policy and intake and assessment/reassessment procedures make clear that personal care is not be provided by Center personnel.

Meredith reported that the Committee was also examining when the Council can and should charge for programs such as Arthritis Exercise.

### Marketing & Fundraising Committee

Given the presentation and discussion by Girard, Nowicki only mentioned that the Committee would be meeting soon. Hackney pointed out the importance of the Board staying engaged and vigilant in the well-being of the Council—citing a local news article about the decline of another non-profit. Streets reinforced the need for Board members to help plan, coordinate and lead the Council's proposed fundraising efforts.

### Other Business

Faris shared information on an upcoming conference for caregivers being held in Raleigh.

Brett Moraes highlighted an activity that involved congregate nutrition participants writing notes for homebound elderly.

Ross mentioned the start-up of square dancing classes at the Eastern Center and that this appeared to be popular. He is one of the participants. .

Streets gave a quick overview of several items that were covered in his written notes to the Board, distributed in advance of the meeting. He also mentioned the efforts of two UNC nursing students who are in the process of identifying “frequently asked questions” so that they can then develop responses for use on the Council website and as a ready reference for volunteers, staff and community partners (including the faith community).

Nansi Greger-Holt announced that she would be presenting at a session on Advance Directives being offered by the Council on Monday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Eastern Senior Center.

Ross indicated that the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board would be at the Eastern Center in Pittsboro. He then adjourned the September meeting at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Louis Forrasi