

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, January 18, 2024
Grasonville Senior Center – Grasonville, MD

ATTENDEES

Members

Martha Anthony
Rebecca Barbee
Toni Breeding
Kelly Johnson
Rebecca Kennedy
Janet Melson
Loretta Morris
Leslie Ray
Janet Salazar
Bonnie Walter

Advisory Members

Annie Sparks
Rebecca Jester

Absent Members

Betty Davis
Alan Ettman
Mary Jo Volpicelli

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Bonnie Walter at 10:05 AM.

OLD BUSINESS

- A motion to approve the minutes from the meeting was made by Loretta Morris and seconded by Janet Salazar. The minutes were approved.
- The Financial Report was reviewed and motioned to be approved by Loretta Morris and seconded by Janet Salazar. Approved.
- Bonnie would like to get contact information from other Commission on Aging boards in the region to see if they would like to participate in another Regional Meeting. Leslie Ray said that she could get the contact information for the other CoA's. Leslie asked when the meeting would take place. Bonnie said that spring would be good time to have it. Leslie said she would have feedback on the contacts at the next CoA meeting. Maryland has a state law that every county should have a CoA Board. Governor Moore passed an executive order tasking the Department of Health and the Department of Aging on relooking at everything that is out there for seniors, because in the year 2035 60% of Marylanders will be 65 and older. We will be number 5 in the country. The task will be if the state is prepared to provide services like housing, nutrition, health and whether we have enough doctors to meet the needs of everyone. Looking to make sure the CoA are being active. Maryland Secretary of Aging Carmel Roques wants to see the Aging Departments get back together and do collaborations. They are looking at Kent County and Queen Anne's County because of the YMCA and how interactive it has been with the seniors, talking about doing a study to see how many seniors are using it.
- Bonnie said that she sees better things happening on this side of the bridge. With having 3 over 55 communities, she anticipates the CoA getting more involved with the needs of the seniors in the community.

NEW BUSINESS

- Introduction of new members Martha Anthony and Rebecca Kennedy.

Ms. Anthony is a native of Queen Anne's County and has a background in education, teaching at QAC High School for forty years, she is also involved with Character Counts, the Veterans Club in Sudlersville and a multitude of other interests.

- **Rebecca Kennedy is currently the Executive Operations Director for Queenstown Landing and has a background in hospitality for 16 years at the Hyatt in Cambridge working as a sales manager.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Need to move forward with the date and time of the Town Hall Meeting. Hopefully the Town Hall Committee will be able to meet after the next CoA meeting. Bonnie said the CoA needs to get information out sooner for next Town Hall.**
- **Bonnie would like ideas from the members on when to have the Commissioners Tour of the Senior Centers, Leslie suggested the during sometime in the summer. Kelly Johnson offered the use of Queenstown Landing bus for the Commissioners Tour. Bonnie suggested that we maybe take another tour of Queenstown Landing also.**
- **The Tablet program was mentioned with the concern that people did not know how to use smart phones or tablets. Martha asked if they reached out to the high schools to see if the students could instruct the seniors. Annie Sparks replied that any volunteers would have to have a background check if they are over 18 and not a Senior Center member, or a school representative would have to be responsible for a student group that were to come in. Kelly Johnson said that her husband who teaches technology would be willing to do classes during the summer months. Annie will mention that to Stacy Voorhees, Senior Center Administrator. Loretta Morris said perhaps they could get volunteers to help the instructor with the classes. Janet Salazar said that she has been working with Stacy to get classes started at the centers. They have hired a digital navigator and that person will be going to the Senior Centers so there is a plan in the works to help people with learning how to use their smart phones, tablets, and other technical devices.**
- **Martha said that a list could be compiled of organizations and names of things that could be shared with seniors in the communities.**
- **Bonnie said that it is an issue with the time seniors can use the pool and walking track at the YMCA who live in Grasonville, Kent Island and Sudlersville. She said that it's a transportation issue and time of the usage. Seniors who live in those areas who don't drive will have a hard time getting there to use the pool during the time allotted for them to use it. Leslie asked if the Kent County Y had an Active Aging Center and Annie replied that Queen Anne's was modeled after St. Michaels Senior Center at the Y. We were able to learn from them and continue to grow in programming. Door to Door transportation is also an option to consider when trying to get to the Y for specific programming.**
- **Martha mentioned that Dunkin Donuts had a veteran's group that met on Mondays here in QAC and now they are meeting at the Y. She said maybe with County Ride they could bring veterans from other areas to meet at these locations. Bonnie said that is information that needs to get out to other areas in the county. She said the library in Centreville has a book club for veterans also. Martha volunteered to compile an informational list of services for seniors.**
- **Bonnie would like to have suggestion on what informational material and gimmicks for the CoA table at the Senior Summit and to form a list of volunteers to man the table.**

SITE COUNCIL REPORTS

- **Grasonville**

A decision was made to form a committee to find ways to have more participation with bingo. Cabin Fever Bingo went well. A Free CPR & AED Training will be held on 2/6 at 10:30. Site Council Meeting starts at 12:45 on 2/9. A special Valentine Bingo will be on 2/14, 20 games for \$1. A Valentine Dance with DJ Anne Marie Duld will be on 2/14 from 11:30-2:30. This event is free. Tubs of Fun craft will be a Cute Critter Planter, participants must sign up by 2/16. This

activity will take place on 2/28. Spring College Classes start in March, advance registration is required.

- **Kent Island**

Kent Island did a Snowball tree for their January craft. They had about 10 participating in the craft. There were several new people who came for Site Council who suggested having more classes such as tech classes. They had quite a few good ideas. More technology classes would be a great idea with the Housing Authority considering having residents put requests for maintenance or other concerns using an online form. Site Council will meet on 2/13 at 11:30. On 2/14 there will be a Valentine's Day Party with a Card and Cookie Decorating class. It will be free to all members and the event starts at 11:00 AM.

- **Sudlersville**

Sudlersville has going through their roof replacement which will also incorporate some repairs inside the building.

- **Active Aging Center**

There is a lot going on at the Active Aging Center in February. An CPR & AED Training class for Seniors/Active Aging Center Members will be held on 2/8/24 at 10:30. On the 2nd Friday of every month at 12:00 there will be a Birthday Bash/Members' Only Potluck to celebrate members' birthdays. Tips on Heart Disease and Medication with Melanie Chapple on 2/5/24 at 12:00. Singles Mixer 2/6 at 11:30 AM with a cost of \$5. Valentine Bingo with Cash & Prizes 2/7 at 12:30. The Site Council will meet on 2/21 at 11:00.

HOUSING

- The QAC Housing Authority sent out a letter informing renters at the senior housing complexes that they would be increasing the monthly rent by \$150. Steve Wilson who is now chairman of the Housing Authority Board. Mr. Wilson, with the help of the county commissioners and staff, were able to suspend the increase at this time. Everyone realizes an increase must happen but not at such a large amount. Janet Melson asked who decides on the increase of rent, Bonnie said that the Housing Authority Board makes that decision. Martha Anthony asked if the county was responsible for senior housing. Bonnie responded that the county managed the complexes about 13 years ago.

LEGISLATIVE

Cathy was not able to attend.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

- FY25 transit state funds are restored. There was a zoning question that came up in the last CoA meeting concerning Kent Island Crossing, Annie checked with QAC Zoning Department, and they responded that Kent Island Crossing Development is proposing a one hundred forty-seven thousand square foot commercial development with 4 restaurants, a grocery store, office, and retail space along with senior independent living facility.
- People riding County Ride will be Riding Free For 2024.
- Congratulations to Leslie Ray on her new position of Client and Community Services Director at Maryland Department of Aging.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

- Commissioner Moran was not able to attend.

CONCLUSION

- The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.
- Next meeting will be on 2/15/24 at 10:00 AM, Kramer building.

Submitted by Wendy Gilbert, recording secretary.