

**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Meeting Minutes for Thursday, March 21, 2024**  
**Kramer Building – Centreville, MD**

**ATTENDEES**

**Members**

**Martha Anthony**  
**Rebecca Barbee**  
**Betty Davis**  
**Janet Melson**  
**Loretta Morris**  
**Bonnie Walter**

**Advisory Members**

**Commissioner Moran**  
**Cathy Willis**  
**Annie Sparks**  
**Stacy Voorhees**  
**Rebecca Jester**

**Absent Members**

**Alan Ettman**  
**Toni Breeding**  
**Kelly Johnson**  
**Rebecca Kennedy**  
**Leslie Ray**  
**Janet Salazar**  
**Mary Jo Volpicelli**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Bonnie Walter at 10:00 AM.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A motion to approve the minutes from the meeting was made by Loretta Morris and seconded by Betty Davis. The minutes were approved.
- The Financial Report was reviewed and motioned to be approved by Loretta Morris and seconded by Janet Melson. Approved.
- Bonnie stated that Leslie Ray's list of CoA's on the Eastern Shore should be tabled until later. Cathy Willis said that she would contact Leslie about the list.
- Martha Anthony reported on the Senior Activities for Veterans list. Martha was provided with the contact information for the VA and is waiting for her to return her call. She has talked to Fred McNeil about the coffee group that meets at the YMCA. She asked if the center managers could provide a list of veterans that visit their centers. She said that she could go to each center and talk to the veterans about what's available to them in county. Stacy Voorhees said that information about who is a veteran is not something that is captured, and a report could be made of but she could reach out to the center managers, and they could ask their everyday people that come to the centers if they know of anyone and form a list from that. Bonnie suggested putting an informational blub in the newsletters.
- Janet Melson updated the members on what the Town Hall Committee have discussed so far. The location will be the Grasonville Senior Center in September. They have suggested the time be from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. They are looking at ways to advertise the event. Each of the committee members have been tasked to bring 5 options to their next meeting.
- Commissioner Moran has a scheduling conflict with 9/25 and 9/26. September 19<sup>th</sup> is the selected date for the Town Hall.
- An invitation to the Commissioners Tour of the Senior Centers was emailed or mailed out earlier in March. The invite has the date and tentative schedule for the tour.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Bonnie suggested a large planter of some sort for the giveaway for the CoA table at the Summit. Betty Davis said that she would donate a basket as a giveaway. Loretta said that the members could help with the basket by donating an item. Bonnie asked for a motion on giveaways for the table. It was motioned by Loretta and seconded by Janet. Betty volunteered to make the giveaways, which will be pocket size Kleenex tissue covers. Bonnie said that CoA will buy the Kleenex and help with the material. It was motioned by Janet and seconded by Loretta to accept Betty's offer of supplying the tissue covers for the giveaways.**
- **Cathy has some new business to share. The MD Dept. of Aging Secretary assigned a new task on the aging side to present a Town Hall on Longevity Ready Maryland. It's an initiative on how we think about aging and longevity. This program will strengthen the MD Dept. of Aging and therefore strengthens all AAAs to provide services along side their partners such as the Dept. of Social Services, Health Dept, Disability and Family Services. They are looking at a family approach so that the whole family could be looked at jointly. The Town Hall will be regional and has been asked by the Secretary to occur between April and September. Cathy was hoping that she could work it in during the CoA Town Hall Meeting in September, but it won't be possible because of the professional participants and clientele from the different disciplines that would be attending the Longevity Ready Town Hall. Governor Moore signed the Executive Order in January for Longevity Ready Maryland. Cathy and Annie are working on the details for this Town Hall and will keep everyone informed.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **The date for the QAC Town Hall Meeting will be on September 19, 2024. Commissioner Moran asked if date could be confirmed with Margie Houck. Annie said she will take care of it.**

## **SITE COUNCIL REPORTS**

- **Grasonville**

**The St. Patrick's Day Luncheon was well attended. Music Jam on Thursdays is doing well. Arthritis Exercise class is every Tuesday at 11 AM. QAC Mobile Library will be at the center on 4/10/24 and 4/24/24. April's Book Club selection will be The Sound of Gravel: A Memoir by Ruth Wariner. There will be a class on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> helping folks with their cell phones, such as adding apps, looking up things, and maybe track your health and fitness. This class starts at 10 AM and ends at 12 PM. Community Wellness will be there on 4/17/24 from 9 AM–12 PM. Save the date for Dash Plus (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension Plus). This class will meet 5 times, weekly on Tuesdays 5/14/24–6/11/24, 10–11:15 AM. Participants must register in advance. Grasonville will appreciate their volunteers on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup>, this event is by invitation only.**

- **Kent Island**

**The Cook-off was held at KISC this year. There were 20 dishes entered. The craft for the month of April will be a Fabric and Ribbon Wreath. Supply fee due at time of sign up. Cash Bingo is held every Tuesday at 1:00. Fifty-cent Root Beer Float Day is April 16<sup>th</sup>. Volunteer Appreciation Day for KISC will be Friday 4/19, this event starts at 12 PM and is by invite only. Upcoming Events at KISC will be a Fundraiser Bingo, date and information will come later.**

- **Sudlersville**

**The quilters have been very active at SSC. Bingo is on Tuesdays & Thursdays starting at 10:30. The center will be doing 3 different free crafts for April (4/3 Birdhouses, 4/17 Cake Balls and on 4/24 they will be making Birdseed Ornaments). Coffee, Craft & Chow starts at 9:30 with Coffee & Danishes and the craft will start at 10:00 with the Spring Bee Hat as the craft. Medication Tips with Melanie Chapple from University of MD Shore Regional Health will be on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. Sudlersville Senior Center will show appreciation to their volunteers on 4/17 at 11:30 AM. This event is by invite only. Betty needs some suggestions on how to get people who**

attend the Senior Center to come to the Site Council meetings. At the last meeting she was the only one there from the center and all others from the apartments.

- **Active Aging Center**

The Active Aging Center has been very active. They have 337 members. Paracise is a new class that starts in April on Mondays at 10:00. This class is a lower intensity exercise to oldies music that can be done standing or sitting. The center will be having an Open House on 4/10/24 from 10:00–3:00 PM. Puzzle Swap is on 4/10 starting at 10:00 and ends at 12:00. Swap a Plant on Tuesday, April 30 from 11:00–1:00. Pendant Necklace Workshop is on 4/15/24 at 9:30. The Site Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, 4/17 at 10:30. Upcoming events at the Active Aging Center is Tie-Dye Fun on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 10:00.

## **HOUSING**

- The Housing Authority Board voted on 3/11/24 to give the operation of the Housing Authoring managed properties back to the county. The Commissioners appointed Mike Clark as Executive Director on 3/12/24. His new job title will be Executive Director of Housing and Family Services. This means that the Dept. of Community Services has gained another department. Cathy and Mike have been working closely with Katya Lindsay from the QAC Housing Authority with the transition. Katya will be leaving her post on 5/1/24. Everything is running smoothly but there is still a lot to learn. The Housing Authority staff will become county employees as of 7/1/24. They will go through the process of any new county employee and have a one-year probational period. This has been a huge effort by the Dept. of Community Services, Commissioners, Todd Mohn and Steve Wilson. A plan for maintenance is already in place. Maintenance will be handled by the HA; this task will not be given to the facility techs from Public Works as they can't handle the huge addition on top of what they are responsible for now. They will partner with the HA to work outside the building. Cathy said it took twelve years for the difficulties at the various housing complexes managed by the Housing Authority and it will take a while to get everything on the right track. The work will be done on a prioritized basis.
- There will be two new job descriptions for the department. The Local Management Board Administrator was sent out the previous day. The other position will be for a Facility Manager which was approved by the Commissioners. They have contracted with Pete Scanlon to visit the properties also. Cathy is currently working on the job description for Property Manager. The previous description was huge. She plans on splitting the duties between the Property Manager and the Facility Manager.
- The rental increases will happen annually at a percentage.
- Cathy said that everyone's patience is appreciated for this endeavor. She thanked Todd Mohn and the Commissioners for all their help with this endeavor.

## **LEGISLATIVE**

- Cathy said there was not a lot to report legislatively.

## **AREA AGENCY ON AGING**

- Stacy Voorhees said that the Active Aging Center are serving meals every day of the week. Average meals served are 125 a month. Loretta said that the meals have improved. Bonnie said she believes that lunch participation has increased at KISC also.
- The Average Monthly Attendance and Average Monthly meals counts:

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Meals</u>
GSC- 1,103	103
KISC- 1,234	108
SSC- 736	199

These numbers are above pre-covid numbers.

- Chesapeake College classes are ongoing.
- SSC has a new Zumba class starting.
- Sudlersville will be hosting the Spring Fling on 4/12/24 from 10am – 2pm.
- Loretta asked if chair yoga can come back to the centers. Stacy said she will request to the college.

#### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

- Commissioner Moran, Town Hall Meeting on 4/10/24 at Bayside Elementary School concerning the ramp closers on Kent Island. The format will be Q&A on why they will be closed, and which ramps will be closed. What will be on the boards that State Highway put at the closers? They want to hear the public's input on the closers. The ramp closers play a critical part of survival on KI.
- The Commissioners are in the middle of the budget for FY25. The BOE has requested 12 million to be added to their budget. The Commissioners will give them 5 million. There are currently more senior citizens in Queen Anne's County than there are students. Commissioner Moran said moving forward the Commissioners have applied to be included in the hearing meetings. He said the meetings concerning the BOE budget should be transparent.
- The county will start their budget cycle with reviewing and making any changes if needed.
- The Commissioner wanted to thank Todd Mohn and Steve Wilson and their efforts with switching the management of properties from the Housing Authority back to the county.

#### **CONCLUSION**

- The meeting adjourned around 11:30 AM.
- Next meeting will be on 4/25/24 at 10:00 AM - Kramer building.

*Submitted by Wendy Gilbert, recording secretary.*