

**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Meeting Minutes for Thursday, April 25, 2024**  
**Kramer Building – Centreville, MD**

**ATTENDEES**

**Members**

**Rebecca Barbee**  
**Rebecca Kennedy**  
**Janet Melson**  
**Loretta Morris**  
**Bonnie Walter**

**Advisory Members**

**Commissioner Moran**  
**Cathy Willis**  
**Stephen Palmer**  
**Rebecca Jester**

**Absent Members**

**Martha Antony**  
**Toni Breeding**  
**Betty Davis**  
**Alan Ettman**  
**Kelly Johnson**  
**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 Becky Barbee and seconded by Loretta Morris. The minutes were approved.
- The Financial Report was reviewed and motioned to be approved by Becky Barbee and seconded by Janet Melson. Approved.
- Leslie Ray's list of CoA's on the Eastern Shore would be tabled until later. Cathy Willis said that she talked to Leslie, and she had planned on attending the meeting but with some changes with her position at the State of MD Dept. of Aging she wasn't able to. Cathy will follow-up with Leslie about the list. Bonnie said that they are looking to have context; she said the CoA plate is full and the information that Leslie will be providing is not a big deal right now. Bonnie thinks that they need to work forward. Cathy agreed.
- Martha Anthony was not available to give a report on the Senior Activities for the Veterans list. Cathy had an update on the list. She said that Aging could not provide names of any veterans visiting their centers. Cathy was contacted by Fred McNeil who is a member of a group of veterans' that meet at the QAC YMCA. He would want to do something like Martha's List with the group that meets at the Active Aging Center at the Y. Cathy said that there must be a larger concept development to this. She has talked to Anne Van Benschoten about this also and perhaps the MAP (Maryland Access Point) Coordinator could help provide info to this effort which would be the appropriate way to do it. Cathy has not met with them yet and will not be meeting with them until the end of May. Now MAP is busy and focused on the Senior Summit. Cathy will follow-up on this also.
- Janet Melson did an update from the Town Hall Committee; Sheriff Hoffman has RSVP'd along with the MD Dept. of Aging Secretary Carmel Roques. Janet asked Cathy if she would be doing the introduction of the Secretary, Cathy replied yes. The Town Hall will be called the Senior Citizens Town Hall Meeting. Ben Cardin will not be able to attend. The committee will be working on the agenda for the Town Hall at their meeting following the CoA meeting. Janet wanted to make sure that all introductions are correct. She has received all the information from the

Secretary's office. Transportation will be putting flyers for the Town Hall in the buses. There is a contact person in all the senior communities such as the senior housing communities (Symphony village, Bay Bridge Cove) and the Senior Centers to help with displaying this info on the Town Hall. Janet Salazar who did an excellent job of being the moderator at last year's Town Hall will be the moderator for this year's Town Hall also. Rebecca Kennedy said that Queenstown Landing will be providing the refreshments for the Town Hall. Bonnie thanked Janet Melson for her help with the organization of the Town Hall. Janet thanked Annie Sparks for all her help and with organization of the Town Hall also. Janet said going forward with the Town Hall, the committee notes should make it easier for the next years Town Hall.

- Loretta Morris asked Stephen Palmer (Transit Administrator) if it would be okay to post a notice on the bulletin board about transportation for Town Hall and the send that list of people to transit instead of people calling individually. Loretta did this for last year's Town Hall and it seem to work great. Stephen said that would be ok with him.
- Janet Melson said that a friends family member, who lives in senior housing, had a good experience with Housing Authority and the way it's being managed now.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Draft and send a letter to members who have not attended meetings for a while, asking if they wish to continue as members.
- What do with the balance of the CoA budget.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- The date for the QAC Town Hall Meeting will be on September 19, 2024. Sign up list of people to volunteer to man the CoA table at the summit.

#### **SITE COUNCIL REPORTS**

- **Grasonville**

Twenty volunteers were recognized at GSC Volunteer Luncheon. The center has a Free Fitness DVD class every morning which starts at 8:30 AM and it has been well attended. On 5/8/24 & 5/22/24 at 9 AM, QAC Mobile Library will be at the center. There will be a Cookie Decorating Workshop on 5/9/24 that starts at 10:30 AM. Wire Wrap Tree Workshop with Fran Peters will be held on 5/21/24 at 10:30 AM, \$5 supply fee at sign-up. The Book Club which meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month at 2:00 PM is doing well. They have decided to do 15 games of the Grocery Bingo with a mystery prize. They are planning a Karaoke Day also. This is just some the happenings at Grasonville Senior Center.

- **Kent Island**

Kent Island Senior Center had a very nice Volunteer Luncheon and was well attended. Fresh Conversations with Cheryl Bush will be held on 5/1/24 at 10:30 AM. This month's class discussion will be "Healthy Foods, Healthy Brain." The new Book Club, "Chit Chat Café" will meet on 5/8/24 at 1:30 PM. Free Meditation Class, led by volunteer member Mrs. Warner, will be on every Friday at 10:30 AM. Pinochle is held every Wednesday at 12:30 PM. Mahjong is held at the center every Monday and Wednesday at 1:00 PM. Card and Board Games are organized by a group of members so dates and times are subject to change.

- **Sudlersville**

Bingo is held on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30 AM. Medication Tips with Melanie for the month of May will be on 5/22/24 at 11:00 AM. Zumba Gold Class is held every Thursday at 9:30 AM. Fresh Conversations with Cheryl Bush will be on 5/2/24. QAC Mobile Library will be at the Senior Center on 5/23/24. Community Wellness is at the center on the first Thursday of every month from 9:00 AM-12:30 PM.

Bonnie said she happy to see the Senior Center Managers post what crafts their centers are doing.

- **Active Aging Center**

The Active Aging Center is doing well. Their numbers are up. Currently working on getting other programing started there. All members have access to the YMCA facilities during AAC hours which are:

1. Pool Lap Lanes and Sauna: 9 AM-10 AM Mon-Thurs.
2. Wellness Center: 10 AM-11 AM Mon – Thurs.
3. Walking Track: 11 AM–12 PM Mon – Thurs.

Veteran’s Cards & Games is on Mondays from 10 AM–11 AM. Chair Yoga every Friday from 11 AM–11:45 AM. Lottery Bingo is every Wednesday and starts at 12:30 PM. A fee may be attached to this activity. This just some of the happenings at the Active Aging Center.

## HOUSING

- Bonnie said that from her viewpoint, Mike Clark (Executive Director of Housing & Public Housing Authority) and Steve Wilson (Chairperson of the Housing Authority Board) have been wonderful with making personal appearances which has been a very comforting feeling for the seniors. Bonnie would like to talk to Mike about Grasonville Terrace having a resident council meeting and making them comfortable enough to call Public Housing with their concerns. Bonnie said that she is happy that QAC has taken over management of the Housing Authority managed properties. Cathy said that they will have departmental update at the Commissioners’ 5/18/24 meeting and there’ll be a small portion discussed on the Housing Authority at that meeting. Cathy stated the Housing Authority is very short staffed and are in the process of hiring people to fill those vacancies.

## LEGISLATIVE

- This year’s session has closed. Not a lot going on. Waiting for the joint chairman’s report to come down about the MD Dept. of Aging budget itself. So, nothing major on that front to mention now.

## AREA AGENCY ON AGING

- Stephen Palmer said as of now there are 10 people that have signed up for transportation to the Senior Summit. He asked the CoA members to tell anyone that might need a ride to give transit a call. They will pick people up from their homes or the Senior Centers. There is not a sign-up sheet at any of the centers. Bonnie asked why they didn’t maintain a list at the Senior Centers. He said because pick up time is so early, around 7:30 AM for some folks and the Senior Centers are closed that day. It would be easier if they called in to pick-up at their homes.
- Bonnie asked about a trip to Sunfest in Ocean City. The answer to that question will go to Stacy Voorhees when she is back in the office. Bonnie said she will talk about trips when Stacy is available to attend a meeting.

## COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

- From Commissioner Moran: life is good for Queen Anne’s County Government, financially the county is in good shape. There are some rumblings from the BOE with the amount they will be getting. A million dollars has been set aside for repairs at Housing. Concentrating on the outside of the buildings.
- The Board of Education’s new building is rolling along.
- The Recreation Center study is full steam ahead. There should be something by December for the commissioners to decide on. Bonnie wanted to know when the meeting concerning the Recreation Center would be and the location of the Rec Center. Cathy said the meeting would be that evening. Commissioner Moran would like to see six basketball courts that can be converted to

**pickleball courts and volleyball courts, and room space for adult activities as well. The location will be from the route 50/301 split east.**

- **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.**
- **They would like to fast track the new jail in Church Hill. It will be a regional facility.**
- **The landfill for Centreville won't be here until 2042.**
- **The commissioner mentions the Town Hall on the ramp closes on route 50. Two hundred twenty people attended the Town Hall. A sheriff's deputy will be placed at the Castle Marina ramp to monitor it if the flow becomes heavy with traffic. More ramps will be closed once the back-ups become larger.**
- **We should know in another two years before Phase 3 of the Bay Bridge study happens. Phase 2 is the critical one because it tells you about the funding and what type of bridge it will be.**

#### **CONCLUSION**

- **The meeting adjourned around 11:00 AM.**
- **For meetings in May and June it will be the Senior Summit and Senior Centers Tour.**
- **The next formal meeting will be on 7/18/24 at 10:00 AM - Kramer building.**

***Submitted by Wendy Gilbert, recording secretary.***