

Commission on Aging

Minutes March 6, 2019

Present:

Introduction of Visitor- Virginia Whitehurst. She came to observe meeting. She saw COA advertised in the paper and was interested in the groups work.

Meeting Chair: Barbara Hollins- filling in for Chair

Minutes:

- Date corrected from 2018 to 2019
- Motion moved and seconded and carried to approve minutes as corrected

Treasurer

- Previous Balance: \$224.53
- Current balance: \$259.53
- Treasurer- Check #2485 was voided to US Postal Service. PO did not receive check and Lillian Morris paid \$35 from her personal account to cover the PO Box Fee. She does not wish to be reimbursed. The original check was eventually returned and voided.
- Motion moved, seconded and carried to approve Treasurer report as presented

Membership- no report

Publicity- no report

Activities- no report

Budget Committee- no report

General Comment: New members requesting clarification of membership and activities.

JABA report

- Louisa team gave a presentation to the Louisa Board of Supervisors on Monday to thank them for services to older in Louisa
- Event with Historical Society on April 13, 2019. Kenny's Automotive is bringing historical sports cars. It is a catered event with DJ. High School is doing presentation on Louisa on 1950's. Event to be held at BJQ Center.
- JABA is working with Resource Council to implement a new program geared at doing a safety check such as fire alarms in older adult home. It will have a nutritional aspect. They will soon advertise for volunteers for the buddy program. It should roll out in the next few months.
- The ACC is doing well. We have enrolled some new members. We are working to meet with Dept of Human Services to educate them on the services and supports JABA has to offer. Dept of Human Services staff often refer to other services in lieu of JABA due to lack of understanding of available programs.

- Questions about Options Counseling and how that functions. Helena Unhoch gave a brief summary on how that service is provided. She is available for further discussion at 540-967-4429 or HUnhoch@jabacares.org
- Mr. Gentry supported JABA coming to the Board Mtg and said it was well received.

COA Budget Request

- COA did go to a Budget Work Session to present
- Mr. Gentry recommended that members contact their board members to express their support of the COA in order to get their funding.
- Ginger Dillard suggested all COA members attend the public comment period of the Board of Supervisors meeting in order to talk about value of program and consider other ways to advocate for themselves and their mission.

Lori Noffsinger, Ombudsman

- Handout provided and attached to Minutes
- Lori is the LTC Ombudsman for the Louisa Rehabilitation Center in Louisa.
- Program is organized by JABA but reports directly to the State Ombudsman Office
- Lori is a volunteer and most Ombudsman are volunteers and work under the guidance of paid staff.
- Every state is required to have an Ombudsman program.
- Ombudsman service as advocates for residents. Residents do not lose their rights when they enter into a facility setting. The Ombudsman educates residents about their rights and helps to advocate for them.
- Residents often fear retaliation or do not think their concerns will make a difference. There is a large number of people who cannot express or advocate for themselves. The Ombudsman visits the facility to check on those individuals as well.
- Ombudsman program can be reached via the main JABA number at 434-817-5222
- JABA can provide some basic information on the services to Louisa residents.
- JABA is looking for some volunteers to cover English Meadows Assisted Living if anyone is interested.

Old Business

Rack Card- Jon says he will have that at the next mtg. This needs to be finished so we can distribute as soon as possible. COA recognized Jon still has employment commitments that another member could complete this for him. Barbara asked Ginger to contact Jon via email and she would complete and be available for live edits at the next meeting if needed. Goal is to have this done at next mtg.

The Alliance Survey-brief review of context and national AARP Liveable Communities initiative. The Alliance is collecting these AARP survey for the region and compiling the data. One of the goals on the COA funding request was that we would complete 500 and report on the data to the Board. Members offered different places these could be distributed. Ginger will reach out to

see if the Survey Monkey link is still active and if not work on creating one. Hard copies can be brought to next mtg. COA will approach Louisa County to see if link could be put on county webpage as well.

Christmas Lunch- Jon has suggested that there be a formal policy and plan on solicitation and approval of vendors moving forward such as advertised, sealed bids, etc . As an aside, the lunch may not be held if funding is not received. James Smith recommended that we determine what needs to be in the bid and he will run it through Sam Massey at Louisa County Finance Office.

Luncheon originally started in Mineral when they were serving frozen meals for lunch and they were looking for an opportunity to have a nice meal for the seniors at the holiday. Eventually the meal became larger than the COA could manage to cook enough food, and we needed food handling license so we moved to a caterer. Caterer must be Safe Serve Certified.

Overall discussion around purpose of the lunch and how to justify the true purpose of the luncheon. Ginger and Jon worked to frame the purpose in the funding request to the Louisa Board that the event should be around connection, community, combating social isolation, and nutritional support without speakers consuming the agenda. Concerned that low attendance does not demonstrate need. Suggested that we need to do a needs assessment to see if the luncheon is meeting the desired need. Wondered if the weather or increasing disability of past attendees is impacting attendance. Members questioned whether we are advertising enough.

Motion moved, seconded and approved to continue with the Christmas Luncheon.

JABA Contribution to the Christmas Luncheon- JABA had agreed to contribute \$500 to the Christmas luncheon at the time the COA was going to exceed the money they had in their accounts. COA never requested any support from JABA. Expenses are still unpaid as members did not submit all expenses. COA needs to submit a written request to JABA if they need funds to cover expenses.

Budget Advocacy- We need to finish our materials such as rack cards. Members also need to be contacting their Board members to advocate for the COA. They can attend Board mtgs during public comment period. The public can be very powerful in influencing the board. The Board of Supervisors are wading through thick packets of bound materials, and we went unfunded last year. COA may be easy to continue not funding because they did not get funds last year and the County Administrator has not recommended funding this year.