

CHELSEA COUNCIL ON ELDER AFFAIRS

NOVEMBER 10, 2021

MINUTES

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Tracy called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and prayer was said.

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Roll Call was taken. Present: Nino Bongiovanni, Jean Chapman, Irene Malachowski, Robert Mullaley, Tracy Nowicki, Jaimie Santos, Rebecca Swope and Greg Walczak. Absent: Gerald DeStefano and Antonio Ortega

Secretary's Report: Everyone received notice of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Tracy explained to new member, Robert Mullaley, how we collect the funds that go into petty cash (coffee donation, "flea market" table, party tickets, raffles, donations). Robert has a friend that would like to make a donation. Tracy explained how the check needs to be made out to our Friends Board (FCOA). Rebecca Swope made a motion to accept and Nino Bongiovanni 2nd the motion.

Old Business: The shuttle service is going well and Tracy will be finishing up the RFP by the end of the month. The new P.A. system and cameras are installed and up and running. Tracy would like to thank DPW Commissioner, Fidel Maltez, for supporting this effort. Becky would like to send Fidel a letter or card thanking Fidel. Greg made a motion to accept and Irene 2nd the motion.

Party Committee: The Halloween party was great even though we had limited capacity due to Covid. Nino thought the party was excellent and the Program Coordinator, Mike DeJesus, was a great DJ. He also mentioned even though the sound system was perfect, the volume may need updating. Jean thought the costumes were great and how wonderful it was putting the pictures on Facebook. The Friendsgiving party is next week. We will be having traditional turkey dinner with some Latin flavored foods. Mike is a great addition to the Party Committee. Jaimie said he watched the party on TV and said it was great and DJ Mike gets an A+.

Jean added that the Hispanic heritage party was wonderful.

Robert mentioned how great it is that the Covid clinic is still going strong. Nino made a motion to accept and Becky 2nd the motion.

Travel Committee: There is nothing to report regarding travel. LaSalette lights was mentioned and to do dinner before seeing the lights if people could afford it. Becky said there is a mystery train ride we could look into and Tracy said we used to do the Turkey Train but since Covid not sure if these trips are even running. Greg mentioned how expensive gas is so everything is costing more. Becky also mentioned going to a donut shop to see how donuts are made. Irene made a motion and Greg 2nd the motion.

New Business: Tracy introduced he newest member of the Board, Robert Mullaley and he gave us a synopsis of his background and how he came to be a Psychologist.

Over the next few months, more changes and renovations will be happening. New flooring in the men's bathroom, new computers, new cabinets in the kitchen, along with shelving in our pantry to store more food since the center has been designated a "micro pantry". A big thanks to Juan for organizing the pantry. New cabinets and lockers will also be installed in the ceramics room. We will also be expanding the Casita since 311 has been placed in our upstairs big room and the Casita does not have room for a large group.

Tracy wants to thank Mr. & Mrs. Allan Washington for their generous donation of an 8 foot pool table.

Our "jewelry making" program has started and had a great turnout. Tracy wants to thank volunteer, Rosa Figueroa, for managing this program, and thank you to Program Coordinator, Michael DeJesus for coordinating it.

Our "flea market" table is up and running again. Donations are kindly appreciated, excluding clothing, books, CD's/DVD's.

Baby barn animals will be visiting the center on Wednesday, November 17th.

Dan O'Leary of Mystic Valley Elder Services has retired. We wish him well in his retirement. Mr. O'Leary has been supportive of the Chelsea COA and is confident the new CEO will continue to focus and support the

cultural vibrancy of the Chelsea Senior Center. Greg suggested we invite the new CEO to one of our party's. Tracy did say she will be visiting the Center at some point.

Tracy put in for a cover for the Bocce Court for shade but is not sure it will be approved. The park near 260 Clark Avenue building has a shade that can be removed. The park is going to be renovated and Nino said it should be a "senior park".

We are working on starting ESL/Citizenship classes.

Nino complimented and thanked Tracy for how she figures out the budget. He took a look at it and realized there really is not a lot of money to work with. Nino made a motion to accept and Becky 2nd the motion.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:27.

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