

CHELSEA COUNCIL ON ELDER AFFAIRS
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MINUTES

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Tracy called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and prayer was said.

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Petty cash has been low since we have not had the "flea market" table up but will be starting to sell items within the next week or so to generate funds. Becky Swope asked what donations we would take for the table and Tracy said no books, clothes or used sheets. Greg Walczak suggested we could raffle something off every month to increase our petty cash. Gerald DeStefano made a motion to accept and Greg Walczak 2nd the motion.

Old Business: Tracy asked the Board to vote on if they want to meet quarterly, every two months or monthly. If they want to meet monthly, we would take off January and February because of the weather. Nino Bongiovanni suggested every other month since in case people travel for the holidays. Gerald DeStefano stated that Tracy or Debbie would call all members to cancel a meeting or to have an emergency meeting. The Board voted and the count was 6-1 in favor of meeting monthly. Nino asked if there would be a meeting in December. Yes there will be.

We are still under the mask mandate.

Covid vaccine clinics are still being held at the Center four days a week.

Exercise classes and bingo are still going strong.

Mike DeJesus our Program Coordinator did a wonderful job with our Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

Gerald made a motion to accept and Greg 2nd the motion.

Party Committee:

Money from the ticket sales for the parties goes to petty cash for coffee, sugar, etc.

We are limiting the capacity of the parties due to Covid.

We are in need of donations of paper plates, silverware, etc. for the parties. MVES has not had these supplies.

Greg suggested going to Restaurant Depot and buy for the year then give the receipt to the Friends Board. Only problem is that we do not have enough petty cash to do that right now. Gerald made a motion to accept and Becky 2nd the motion.

Travel Committee: We have not been able to take any Foxwoods trips since they are not accepting buses and have no incentives. Encore is an option but it is too close to shuttle people and there is no bingo, which many of our members only go to Foxwoods for the bingo. There is a limit on how many people can be on the bus due to Covid restrictions. Nino stated he has spoken to other people from different Senior Centers and they have the same problem not filling the buses and maybe we could combine trips with said Centers. Tracy responded that we have tried that in the past and will revisit it when the trips become available. She will also have our Program Coordinator, Mike, get in touch with Foxwoods to let him know when they will be accepting buses again. Greg made a motion to accept and Irene 2nd the motion.

New Business: We have added a second Yoga class and third Zumba class.

Our blood pressure clinic is running once a month.

We still do not have a Podiatrist. Becky said she spoke to Dr. Kaplan about 3 months ago and he is working at the EBNHC.

The shuttle service is doing great. In 13 weeks, there has been 1,259 trips, which averages out to approximately 14 trips a day.

The floor in the big room has been replaced and the P.A./camera system will be installed within the next few weeks.

Mike has been working on some programs, one of which is "Barn Babies". Approximately 20 baby animals will be visiting the center on Wednesday, November 17th.

Greg was wondering if any seniors are looking for pets and that we may be able to contact Animal Control for some info but Tracy believes there is a program in Chelsea already in place.

Nino has been questioned by other people to get answers for a few things: Why doesn't the Senior Center have any funds? How does the financial report get done for the City and the Senior Center? Why aren't refreshments included in the financial report? What is on the budget?

Irene (former Treasurer of the Bocce League) commented by stating that Bocce has been self-sufficient for years and has never depended on the center for monetary reasons. That is why the players pay dues. Nino stated that Bocce does not need the center in which Tracy replied that they do since the center does the general work including paperwork and keeping the grounds clean, setting up umbrellas, etc. Gerald mentioned that in 20 years that he has been on Bocce there has never been refreshments every week. Bocce President, Clara Lander, has never expressed any other needs other than the aforementioned ones to Tracy.

Greg stated that Ceramics is a program of the center and that it is not in the City Budget. It is also self-sufficient thru dues.

The Budget is public record if anyone wants to look it up.

Nino asked since there is no Bingo on Friday due to the Covid clinic, would it be possible to have it another day. At this time, it is not feasible with our other program schedules. Jaimie Santos made a motion to accept and Irene Malachowski 2nd the motion.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:29.