

Foxborough Council on Aging and Human Services
Board Meeting : September 16, 2010

Present: Chairperson-Joanne Pratt, Vice Chairperson-Jerry Norwood, Vivian Pitts, Colin Haney, Elaine Biggieri, Wendy Haney, Jeanne Bonneau, Director-Vicki Lowe, and HESSCO Rep.-Tenny Nevins.

Absent/Excused: Lloyd Gibbs and Secretary-Ann Alibrandi

The meeting was called to order by Joanne Pratt at 5p.m.

The minutes from the June 17, 2010 meeting were accepted as written.

Budget Report: Due to Ray Wood's heart attack we ended the year over in the salaries budget-as Ray is a benefitted employee. Ray is still out on leave so we will be in the same situation for the present budget. Vicki sent a memo to Andy Gala and Randy Scollins so that they can be prepared for the overage. We had \$226.85 unspent in our operating budget. We restocked supplies for the building, had brochures and business cards printed, had repairs and maintenance done to the van and car, and had the back door fixed. The Friends paid entirely for the climate control wall units at the back of the building and the electrical work in the basement. The HVAC units are working out well. So far this year, the only unexpected expense has been the refrigerator repair.

Director's Report: Ray Wood is expected to return next Wednesday. He will be driving Wednesday morning and the regular schedule on Thursday and Friday. He is continuing his rehab program on Wednesday afternoons. Vicki hired a new substitute driver, Garry MacDonald. Paul Carr, who was subbing, has been called back by his former employer to do consulting work through the end of the year.

*The computer lab at the Senior Center has been the training site for Foxboro's Munis system. When the transition is complete we will be able to enter invoices and have direct access to financial reports.

*Covidien, a business that has a plant at the Mansfield Industrial Park, chose the Foxboro Senior Center as an employee volunteer project. They weeded and mulched all the plant beds and donated 30 potted plants for seniors. Some of the plants went to homebound elders and others were given to Senior Center participants. Covidien did not use all the funds earmarked for the project so they donated the \$250.00 balance to the Senior Center.

*The Neponset Valley Alzheimer's Partnership will host their biannual conference in October. It is their main fund raiser. Respite is offered to caregivers who would like to

attend the conference. For all other requests there is a freeze except for Foxboro residents. There are funds available to Foxboro caregivers due to generosity of the Spinney family with a donation earmarked for Foxboro.

*As of July 1st, the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office has reinstated their TRIAD coordinator. They will be a great source for this senior driven program. There is a speaker planned for October and a tour of the NCS Command Vehicle in November. There was a cookout Wednesday with 50 participants.

*Annette Fisher is volunteering to host a new program called "Words and Music". The program is a variety of word games and music and a good brain exercise.

*Scott Ciosek, our facilitator from Beacon Hospice, is relocated to an office that doesn't serve Foxboro. Vicki has arranged for a new grief counselor named Joanne McNulty from Vista Hospice. The support group will run from October 6th to December 15th. There is definitely a need for this group.

*Ann Child, with the help of Vicki, will be starting a new jewelry making class. It will run from September 22nd to October 27th. This class will be a nice opportunity to make gifts for the holidays.

*Vicki is on the advisory board of the Aging and Disability Resource Consortium (ADRC). We have been a test site since May of 2008. In July, 2.5 million dollars had been released for state contracts to create consortiums covering all towns in Mass. The Agency on Aging (federal) and the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (state) are partnering with the ADRC's (local) in an effort to streamline information and access to anyone seeking support and/or services.

*Vicki is a member of the "Safe Foxboro" community coalition. The coalition has been mentored by the town of Stoughton to help promote a drug free community. The coalition has made strides such as drug disposal day, teen speak outs, and a new logo. Unfortunately they did not get a grant this year which leaves the coordinators job unfunded. The continuation of the program is in jeopardy.

*Two community groups that Vicki is involved with, HUG's-Foxboro and the Community Task Force to Address Bullying and Harassment, support the program "Rachel's Challenge". The program's message was to start a chain reaction to promote respect and kindness within the community and its students. HUG's helped pay for the program in the schools.

*In October, Noreen (Community Social Worker) and Vicki will be on a panel at a community education program at Brigham and Womens at Patriot Place with Police Chief Ed O'Leary and Ruth Karacek from HUG's- Foxboro. The program focuses on issues of domestic violence and bullying. It will take place on October 13th from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

*HUG's will be having their annual walk at the Ahern School on October 16th. Proceeds from the walk help to pay for community and school programs such as "Rachel's

Challenge” as well as helping victims of domestic violence. They are looking for people to walk.

*Vicki is on a subcommittee of the “Community Task Force to Address Bullying and Harassment” called “Education and Awareness of Parents and Community”. They have designed a proactive plan to pique interest in the community with the “Bucket Campaign”. Details will be in the Foxboro Reporter on September 23rd.

*Evie Malm did a wonderful article for the Foxboro Reporter about the Bereavement Groups of Foxboro. They are currently training new facilitators on Tuesdays for the month of September. There are participants in the groups interested in becoming facilitators. One of the members is a student that is trying to work with the school faculty to start a bereavement group at the high school. Her group feels that there is not enough offered at the school to help kids deal with the loss of a parent.

Human Service Report: In her report, Noreen outlined the client trends and activities for both seniors and clients under age 60 for the month of August. Due to illness she was unable to compile a July report.

Old Business: Vicki met with Bob Swanson several weeks ago about the handicap parking project at the back of the Senior Center. There are other projects he has to finish so we do not have a date as to when the work will be done. The cement pad has to be replaced.

New Business:

a). Election of officers by a unanimous vote went as follows: Joanne Pratt was elected Chairperson. Jerry Norwood was elected Vice-Chairperson. Ann Alibrandi was elected Secretary.

b). Trip Policies: Copies of the new Foxboro Council on Aging Trip Policies, as written by the Trip Committee, were reviewed by the COA Board. Input was received from board members and seniors attending the meeting. The policies were reviewed, discussed, and accepted with a few modifications.

c). HESSCO Report: Tenny Nevins stated that most of the HESSCO meeting concerned decreased finances due to the poor economy. Vicki stated that there is a waiting list for human services. She stated that the main priority is the most needy seniors with the least family support. There are no new contracts with providers. Tenny stated that the HESSCO Walk is September 25th at the Bird Middle School in Walpole. If you purchase a \$5.00 coupon from HESSCO you will receive a discount at Macy’s on Saturday, October 16th.

d). Friends of Foxboro Seniors Report: The Friends are meeting on Saturday, September 18th. They paid for the air conditioning/heating units at the Senior Center as well as a new DVD player.

Jerry made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Jean. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25p.m.

The next meeting will be on November 18th at 5p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Haney