

St Joseph County COA

Senior Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2018

Meeting called to order at 9:10 am

Ruth Mancina went over previous month's topics and addressed what had changed. Ruth ordered new microphone cords, with a spare. Ruth stated that it seems that these do break as they are used often.

Ruth reiterated that there is money left in the 701 fund that could be put to good use. She would like to use it for the patio. We will be bringing the patio furniture out soon and Ruth said it would be nice to have raised flower boxes with some annuals in it for us all to enjoy on either side of a bench. She would also like to get umbrella bases as the wind tends to knock the umbrellas over. We have had tables get damaged like this in the past. Laura asked how much was left in the 701 fund. Ruth was not 100% certain, but she believes there is right around \$600 left over. Several members asked about an awning. Ruth said that an awning is probably close to \$1000. There is talk of a pergola. Ruth did say that it will be difficult to place one out there, but it is a consideration. We would also incorporate a screen for additional shade. Since it would be costly to do the entire patio, it will be more feasible to just do a pergola at some point in the future. Catherine did inquire as to how these are anchored. Tim explained that they are cemented in generally.

Ruth introduce Sam Stone as the new Life Enrichment Coordinator. Everyone welcomed her and she thanked them for their kindness.

A graduate student is working on the surveys that the COA did earlier this year. Stay tuned for that.

The Senior Resource Fair is next week. A big turnout is expected. Many prizes will be given out. One prize is a lift chair. Gift cards will be among the prizes awarded. Lunch will be provided and there will be lots of agencies in attendance. Pat expressed concern about how the prizes are given. Do they have to be present for this? Ruth said no, not at all. We are having someone take names and phone numbers. We will call this person if they are no longer present. Catherine wondered if you have to sign up for each prize individually. Ruth said no. The only prize that will be separate is the lift chair. The lift chair may not be something everybody wants to win. We will be offering delivery if pick up is not an option for the winner of the lift chair. Regina mentioned that many people are wondering if it is just for seniors? Ruth said no. Adults with aging parents can also come. These resources are for caregivers as well. We are advertising this. It has been on the radio and we have another radio spot for 5-16-18. Also, it has been put in the newsletters. Catherine asked if it's in the Gateway? Ruth said yes. Ruth went on to say that it has also been advertised on Facebook. She even boosted the post. This is the first time we have boosted a post, so she is hoping it is reaching a lot of people.

Volunteer dinner went very well. Everyone seemed quite pleased with it.

Sherry said she is looking for more aides. She said she is short by at least 2 or 3. Catherine asked about having someone come and wash curtains. Sherry said they can have someone come and do a deep spring cleaning and that would be included. Regina asked if this individual needs to be certified? Sherry said no, they just want someone who can come and relieve loved ones. Someone to clean, run errands,

bathe, be a companion, etc. It is considered a county job and would be part time (29 hrs a week). Tim said applying in Three Rivers is best. Regina wants flyers and Sherry said she can provide that. Ruth said it is in the newsletter as well. Regina said she wants the flyers to hang at Village Manor. Ruth mentioned that she does have the job posted on Facebook as well. Ruth has been sending the resumes to Jeanette. Regina asked if it says you don't have to be certified? Sherry said she is pretty sure it does say it, but if it doesn't she will add that.

Sam took this time to thank everyone for having her. She said she is really enjoying getting to know everyone and making friends with a lot of people here. She feels like she has been here forever now. Falling into an easy groove here and really enjoying herself. She is joining cardio drumming this Wednesday and looking forward to it. She did ask if she could borrow the Bingo microphone headset for dinner night out in June. Ruth said that probably can be arranged. □

Pat mentioned that he wouldn't mind using the 701 fund to replace the clocks that are wrong in our building. They no longer work. He mentioned the clock in the conference room that had the wrong time. He then went on to ask what has changed with the meal prep here? Catherine also said she felt something was different. Katie addressed this. Katie said we don't have much prep here. The only prep is on Fridays. We started doing meal preps on Fridays recently. She wants to do more cookouts and improve in this area, but right now there just isn't much we can do. Going forward the plan is to have all of the meal prep moved to Sturgis and then eventually Three Rivers. Tim said that the food used to be prepared just by the jail and we expressed concern. That's when we decided to move the meal preps on Fridays. Unanimously everyone agreed that Fridays are successful. Katie said that we just can't take it all on at once right now. We still need to hire a fulltime cook. Pat said he is just letting us know what he is being informed of by others. Katie and Tim said they are watching the contracts closely. We are making strides to improve what we can. Catherine said the tuna fish was not very good the other day. Katie said that when it gets here it is too late. She does try to correct issues like this going forward. She lets them know things like that so that we can avoid it in the future. She said she has meetings with them twice a week. She wants us to keep in mind that this is a short-term fix. Eventually we want to do it ourselves. Right now, we have to resource out. Long term fix is to do all of the prep ourselves. That's our goal. Catherine mentioned the condiments. She said if, for example, we are offering cheeseburgers, we ought to have cheese slices available.

Pat mentioned that he would like to have a tour, or walk through, of the new Three Rivers location. Tim and Ruth said they can look into and schedule something for the future. Tim said we are currently working on financing, but it is inching along. It's going in a very positive direction though. Just a slow process.

Katie touched on Project Fresh. There are coupons being sent. There is an income requirement. She talked with Farmers Market. Instead of giving money to the state we would like to keep it and handle the reimbursements. The state gets bogged down. If we do it, maybe we can do it more quickly. We want to keep everything local.

Laura asked for an updated restaurant list. Ruth told her check with Danielle. Danielle definitely should have an updated list up front for everyone.

Pat said he would like to vote no on the colored ticket system. He said some of the restaurants are rude about it. They don't want to accept breakfast tickets for lunch. Regina said it is their choice to say no. Do

we have to accept this? Katie said they should be accepting those tickets no matter what. She has told them many times that it doesn't matter what color the ticket is. Just write on the ticket if you used it for a different meal. She will reimburse them accordingly. She said it's good business for them to do this. Regina mentioned that on Mother's Day she got a steak from Cosmos with all the fixings on it and they accepted her lunch card. She thought that was pretty awesome. Pat said, go next Sunday. They probably just did that because it was Mother's Day. Katie said that Cosmos is trying to repair their reputation a little. She has spoken with them before. She has talked with all of the restaurants and told them to just do it, take the ticket no matter the color. She will reimburse the amount that is correct. Pat said that Katie is dealing with management though. When he goes in for a meal he is dealing with staff. Management isn't telling staff about the tickets or if they are, staff isn't paying attention like they should. Tim agreed that this is exactly the obstacle we are facing. Catherine asked if they use a breakfast ticket for lunch they could lose money. How are they showing that they used a breakfast ticket for lunch? Katie told her all they have to do is write on them. Regina asked if they are reimbursed differently? Katie stated that yes, they are. Tim added that we added to the reimbursement. So they are actually getting more. Regina stated that we have two real issues here; money and communication. She went on to explain that we need to reach the staff. Catherine asked Katie what she has heard. Katie said she hasn't heard a lot of negativity. She is working on getting more restaurants in the Sturgis area to provide more choices. This is a big transition. Once everything calms down they will see the benefits. Sam said that really this will be lucrative for the restaurant owners if they get totally on board. Katie said absolutely. This is all transitional.

Regina asked about tech time being expanded to Fridays from 1-3. Ruth said yes, we are working on this. Probably will be by appointment. Regina said she already has a lady for this Friday. Catherine would like more distinction between fixing something and online issues. Ruth said she will take care of this.

Marge asked about cook outs on Tuesdays. Katie said she wants to do more pop-up sites in the future and to stay tuned. Hopefully we find out more soon. She is working on it.

We need to keep track of volunteers. People want to know what all they can volunteer for as well. Ruth said that we like to keep track of everything. We need volunteers for organizing, putting stuff away, or if there is a skill set you have we could showcase that in a class. There is always something we can do! Tim mentioned that there is a volunteer brochure as well.

Catherine mentioned holding a class to teach a new game. She also asked about getting a new Scrabble game for here. Ruth said yes we can do that. Catherine also would like the game "Apples to Apples". Ruth agreed that would be a good game to have and said we can get that also.