

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The July 15, 2020 meeting of the Advisory Board of Directors of the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging was held via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Jon Withers, at 1:35 PM. Roll call was taken by Chuck Thompson.

PRESENT: Sarah Apwisch, Lee Austerman, Al Balog, Steve Boland, John Gelvin, George Letts, Jim McTavish, Ed Stemen, Chuck Thompson, & Jon Withers.

ABSENT: Deb Davis

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Stoll, Executive Director; Katie Hughes, Nutrition Manager; Ruth Mancina, Marketing Outreach Manager; Amanda Newman, Life Enrichment Coordinator; Robert Tomlinson, Three Rivers Commercial; Dianne Wood, COA Member.

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Mr. Stemen, supported by Mr. Thompson, to accept the agenda as Presented. Motion carried 10-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. MacTavish, supported by Mr. Boland, to approve the June 2020 minutes with no revisions. Motion carried 10-0.

FINANCE REPORT:

As Ms. Butler was gone for vacation, Mr. Stoll presented a revenue & expense summary, including the money raised for the atrium & outside improvements, and apartment & building rentals. A motion was made by Mr. Boland, supported by Mr. McTavish, to accept the finance reports as presented. Motion carried 10-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

COA Activity Programs – Mr. Stoll discussed the plan to resume activity programs, beginning August 3. The tentative plan, at both facilities, is to have limited capacity for small group activities (10 or less).

Restrictions will be based on the current Executive Order, along with the CDC and local health department recommendations.

Other discussion involved the landscaping and park project, and what was happening during this time.

Mr. Stoll explained that the project was in progress, although it might possibly be somewhat slowed down, if equipment wasn't readily available. Discussion also took place about the fact that this park project, which incorporates the area behind the Rivers Enrichment Center, would be open for public use. There was concern about keeping the park usage monitored, i.e., fences, police or someone hired to keep an eye on things. Mr. Stoll explained that he had had discussion with the local police & sheriff's department.

Building rentals will begin the end of this month and renters are being expected to comply with the current state guidelines limiting group sizes inside and outside of the building.

A motion was made by Mr. Boland for a soft reopening plan to be revised to August 3. This was supported by Mr. Gelvin. Motion carried 10-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PROGRAM REPORT:

Ms. Hughes provided an update on Home Delivered Meals. Meal counts are down to normal and 100 produce and dairy boxes are being provided by the state on a weekly basis. Project Fresh has begun. Income requirements were discussed. Only 100 vouchers are available this year as opposed to the 200 which have been available in years past. Huss Academy and Bylers are participating vendors for Project Fresh this year.

“To Go” Meals have been available for those seniors interested in participating. These meals will soon begin being used as the second meals for HDM clients with this service.

Mr. Withers questioned why Corey Lake is not participating in Project Fresh this year. Ms. Hughes stated that this may be due to them not opening this year but will reach out to them to see if they can still register with the state if that is not the case.

Mr. Gelvin asked about the distribution of “To Go” Meals. Ms. Hughes explained that members are currently picking up their meals inside the facilities at this time. As the number of participants increases consideration of distributing from a meal truck in the parking lot will be an option.

MEMBER TIME:

Mr. Austermann asked if Weight Watchers will be starting again. Mr. Stoll explained that this is a building rental. Ms. Mancina explained that they do not have plans to start any time soon.

Mr. Thompson asked the board to allow recording of public meetings by reporters. Mr. Stoll explained that our meetings are recorded by audio and there are no restrictions to this. Mr. Thompson also requested that COA Board Meetings be posted on the SJCCOA website and complimented the website itself.

Mr. Austermann asked if the game and quiet rooms are available for use at Oaks Enrichment Center. Mr. Stoll answered that the facility is not open for activities at this time.

Mr. Boland showed concern of resident move outs in September. Mr. Stoll explained that lease renewals are being scheduled and as of now we no of 2 residents planning to move out.

Ms. Apwisch discussed her enjoyment in delivering newsletter to local businesses and is willing to assist again this month. Ms. Mancina also thanked Mr. Gelvin for his assistance.

Mr. Gelvin assisted in delivering newsletters and would like to add Kroger Pharmacy. Mr. Gelvin also expressed concern for a specific restaurant not complying with PPE. Mr. Stoll explained that Ms. Hughes as been in contact with all participating restaurants explaining that participation in the COA program, PPE is a requirement.

Mr. Stoll discussed small group resident meetings at REC as well as a plan to have a Senior Advisory Council meeting via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Stemen supported by Mr. Boland. This motion carried 10-0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Thompson, Secretary