

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED 3/15/2023

The February 15, 2023, meeting of the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging Advisory Board of Directors was held at Rivers Enrichment Center. The meeting was called to order by Kathy Pangle, at 1:30 pm. Roll call was taken by Phil Kline.

PRESENT: Sarah Apwisch, Lorraine Bolley, Deb Davis (arrived at 1:42PM), Phil Kline, Kathy Pangle, Rick Shaffer.

ABSENT: Britt Buscher, Pat Dane, John Gelvin, George Letts, Jon Withers.

AGENDA: A motion was made by Ms. Pangle with support from Ms. Apwisch to approve the agenda as presented. This motion was approved 5-0.

OTHERS PRESENT: Pam Riley, Executive Director; Katie Hughes, Nutrition Manager; Ruth Mancina, Marketing & Life Enrichment Manager; Nicki Notestine, Residential Services Manager; Denell Reilly, COA Member.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

MINUTES

Minutes from February 2023 were approved with one correction. A motion was made by Ms. Apwisch with a second from Ms. Bolley. This motion passed 5-0.

FINANCE REPORT:

Ms. Riley reviewed the preliminary 2022 report as well as the January 2023 report. Ms. Davis explained that approval of the finance report should include a motion to approve the finance report for acceptance on record, leaving room for any adjustments. Ms. Bolley made this motion with the support of Ms. Apwisch. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PROGRAM REPORT:

Life Enrichment Services – Ms. Mancina talked about the Dinner Night Out last evening. Catering from Tasteful Creations and Karaoke with Bill Balk and Mark Trowbridge made for a great Valentine’s Day celebration. Ms. Mancina thanked Ms. Riley for her assistance in checking in and serving dinner to members. The next Dinner Night Out will be in May. March events include a celebration of National Reading Month by inviting seniors to read to local elementary students. Upcoming trips include Dinner & a Movie tonight, Peking Acrobats at Miller Auditorium and Steel Magnolias at Three Rivers Community Players coming soon. The 50th Celebration continues with 50 ways to take care of your heart this month, open houses in the works at both centers, and the big celebration at the Summer Picnic in June.

Residential Services – Ms. Notestine reported a decrease in the waitlist for In-Home Services with only 14 remaining. Daily calls are still coming in about the apartments and the waitlist is currently 26 for one-bedrooms and 11 for two-bedrooms. The COA will be hosting the Senior Resource Fair with ASN at the Oaks Enrichment Center on May 10, 2023.

Nutrition Services –Self prepared cold meals have been added to Wednesdays. HDM meal counts continue to grow. The new equipment purchased with ARP Funding last September has finally been delivered. This includes the tilt skillet, blast chill freezer, and meat slicer. March's 50th Celebration will involve students from Immaculate Conception School assisting to packaging 50 skittles for each of our Home Delivered Meal clients. Members are enjoying the Wednesday state dessert celebrations. Katie's Korner this month included discussion on oils & vinegars.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Riley reviewed her county-wide speaking tour and topics she discusses at these meetings. Nutrition, In-Home, and Life Enrichment Services are highlighted at these discussions keeping the time frame at 10 minutes or less for each presentation. Options for receiving a copy of the monthly newsletter were discussed. Board member photos are in the process of being updated and will be displayed very soon. An RFP is being prepared for the Rivers parking lot and will be available mid-March. Windows and doors that were not replaced during the original renovation will be done this year as well as some updated landscaping. A bike rack has been requested at the Oaks Enrichment Center and options are being explored.

Parking has become a challenge for renters when the Doyle Center has large events. Ms. Riley has been in contact with the Doyle staff offering to coordinate schedules and rent the parking lot to them during these larger events. Ms. Davis suggested seeking legal counsel on this matter.

MEMBER'S TIME:

Mr. Kline gave compliment to Ms. Riley on her presentation at the Mendon meeting last week. COA Members at Kline's resort are concerned about the availability of tickets for special events and trips at their location. Ms. Mancina explained that as long as the residents of Kline's Resort review the newsletter when it is available online and call to sign up right away they have the same opportunity as others in the county.

Ms. Apwisch asked about emergency procedures for active shooters. Ms. Riley confirmed that this is currently in the works with Erin Goff at the Sheriff's Department. This will be available for board review but not made public.

Mr. Shaffer reminisced about when he was on the COA advisory Board several years ago and the controversy surrounding moving from the old Sturgis facility and the opening of the Oaks Enrichment Center.

Ms. Bolley inquired about In-Home Aides and the availability of these services for a current member. Ms. Notestine suggested having the member get in contact with her to add to the waitlist for services, get referrals for other agencies, and also suggested Thurston Woods for their memory care programs.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Ms. Pangle with support from Mr. Shaffer to adjourn the meeting. This motion was passed 5-0 at 2:30 PM.