

BERKLEY COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 12, 2024

Board Present: Margaret Moroff, Carol Buote, and Cathy Charette, Kathee Strozyk, and Arlene Medeiros

- I. **Call to Order** – Margaret Moroff called the meeting to order in the hearing room. The meeting is being recorded.
- II. **Acceptance of Prior Minutes** – The Minutes of July 18, 2024 were accepted with two minor corrections.
- III. **FY 2024 Budget** - Krista Celia presented the financial report for August 2024
 1. Town Budget Balance: Salary: \$27,038, Town Funded Accounts: \$8,150.40
 2. Formula Grant: \$18,437.54
 3. Program Donations: \$10,271.69
 4. General Donations: \$4739.64
- IV. **Events** –The board discussed the upcoming events
 1. **Ceramics** – The group discussed the reason that the ceramics was canceled. KC stated that due to a number of participant cancelations there were not enough people to run the class. It was postponed to October 22nd. KC said she would be picking up an example of the upcoming projects from Dale Pagano to display with the signup sheet.
 2. **Tech Help and Trivia** – The board discussed Kevin Garganta's office hours for Tech help. KC explained that he has been very busy during some of his time and other times he was slow. MM suggested using appointment times rather than walk in availability. MM discussed how much fun the Trivia nights are and how successful they have been. KC discussed a call she took concerning Greg DeMello, who is running for county commissioner. He was interested in sponsoring the event. After discussion the board decided not to accept the offer of sponsorship. KC said she would look into how other COAs handle this type of situation.
 3. **Brown Bag** – KC discussed the logistics of brown bag and how she has volunteers who help with the set up and unloading of the cars.
 4. **Bristol Elders Chronic Disease** – Thursdays from 9/26/24 – 10/31/24 from 9:00 – 11:30. KC updated the board on the progress of the sign ups for this program. KC said there are 6 signed up and 9 are needed to run the program. The flyer was shared with Dighton and Freetown and she would be hearing back soon if the program would run.
 5. **Tour of the Community School** – MM spoke about the tour of the school and how it is important to come out and see what you are voting about.
 6. **Painting with Amy** –The project with Amy King will be a painting of a fall scene.
 7. **Lucky Bunny Crafting** – Illuminated Bottle Craft – Wednesday, October 16th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. The group discussed the upcoming project which is a decoupaged glass bottle.
 8. **Ceramic Holiday Bulb Decorating** – MM told the board about the upcoming ceramic special project. It will be more expensive but that is because the project is more intricate. MM said that Dale would be bringing an example.
 9. **Holiday Card Making – November 21st**. MM announced the upcoming card making class and said that the people who participate really seem to enjoy it.
 10. **Holiday Party** – Saturday, December 14th. The board discussed the upcoming Christmas Party. MM brought up entertainment and KS said that background music is preferable for socializing and the board agreed. KC asked the board if they would vote on the Friends gift of gift cards for the guests of the party. Elisabeth Monkowski, said the Friends already voted and they voted for up to 120 guests and the meal. The group talked about how the Berkley COA welcomes seniors

from other towns into the Berkley COA. The board decided that the out-of-town guests would be welcome to the Holiday party if they pay the ticket price of \$20. The working friends would be free, MM said this is one of the ways, the small ways, that we thank them. Which is what we have done in the past. MM said the board could have a motion for all participants of the Christmas party, up to the first 120 will get a gift card, courtesy of the friends. MM asked for a motion and AM answered so moved. CC seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor.

11. **Elder Law** – MM discussed the prior elder law program that was offered in the COA. KS mentioned that there was an interest in the longer program that the law firm offers. KC said she would like to bring them back, not immediately because they just presented their 60-minute abbreviated program but she would like to bring them in for the 90-minute program.
12. **Summer with the Ospreys** – MM discussed the book written by Pamela Lowell, who used to live in Berkley. KC said Pamela runs a program in which she discusses her work with Ospreys. It is \$200 for the program. Pamela will bring copies of her book and some of her art to sell to participants after the program. KC asked the board if they were interested in bringing this program to the COA. The board said yes and decided to work collaboratively with the library on it without age restrictions. KC suggested the COA would pay for the event and the library could bring the snacks.
13. **Singo Bingo** – KC explained a Singing Bingo program she would like to bring into the COA. It would cost \$150. The board agreed to bring it in.
14. **Christmas Karaoke** – MM discussed bringing Rick Ferreira into the center to host Christmas Karaoke. KC said that she just found out that the Happy Hearts are hosting him on the second or third week of December. For that reason, the board decided against Christmas Karaoke.

V. **Refuse to be a Victim and Pepper Spray Class** – KC brought up the idea of offering a how to use pepper spray class because at the Refuse to be a Victim classes people had expressed interest in purchasing pepper spray. Kerrie Ann who runs the class has the ability to sell pepper spray but KC thought it would be a good idea to also offer the class. The board decided to bring her back to run the Refuse to be a Victim class again and the pepper spray class. KS suggested a program about the safe keeping of fire arms and how to handle fire arms after a loved one passes away. Liz Monkowski said that the police chief came in and did a presentation about that in the past. Liz Monkowski also said she would be interested in a senior self-defense class.

VI. **Cultural Council Grant Requests** – KC discussed the upcoming cultural council grant requests. For ideas she brought Fran Hart, Jumpin Juba, Hip Hop, and Lewis and Shea. The board discussed the options and decided to send a letter of support for Fran Hart music of the 50s, Jumpin Juba, and Andrew Shea. AM mentioned Ed Priest's singing program and the board decided to have Ed go through the cultural council grant process and if he does not receive a grant than the COA will consider bringing him in. KC next brought up grant application books that the cultural council uses for the decision process. The cultural council would like to print them using the COA printer and reimburse the COA the cost of the ink. The board agreed to allow the cultural council to use the printer and they would be reimbursed for the printing. KC next brought up the sign making in the COA that the cultural council is running as a fund raiser. The potential date is October 17th but the details are still in the works.

VII. **Shine Assistant** – MM discussed how in the past Lucielle was certified in Shine. MM talked about how important it is to have someone who is paid who can help seniors with applications. She would like to see an assistant hired and that the assistant be sent to Shine certification. CC agreed that a local Shine person would be useful especially for people who have an emergency come up and they need to speak with one. CB and KC asked to wait until budget cycle to put in this request. MM agreed to wait but she feels very strongly that the COA needs a Shine councilor.

- VIII. Friends Report** – Elisabeth Monkowski presented the friends report. She said that the craft fair was very successful and many vendors want to come back. The group discussed the chairs for the center and KC she would consider stacking chairs if the folding chairs from Home Depot do not work out. EM said the Tenors and Kenny and Dolly are Friends trips that are open right now. KC asked to talk about the Holiday Party again. She asked to clarify which special guests would be invited. The board said they would like to invite the selectmen, the town administrator, and the two politicians who hold Pacheco and Orrals seat after the November election. The board decided to have raffle baskets again at the Holiday Party.
- IX. Public Input** – EM brought up lights on. The details were still unknown but the Friends are interested in being involved.
- X. Next Meeting** – October 10th at 9:30 in the Hearing Room
- XI. Motion to Adjourn.** The board voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:29.