

BERKLEY COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 10, 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 at 9:30 in the hearing room. She reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded.
- II. **Acceptance of Prior Minutes** – August 15, 2024 minutes were accepted.
- III. **FY 2024 Budget** - Krista Celia presented the financial report for September 2024
 1. Town Budget Balance: Salary: \$24,580, Town Funded Accounts: \$4,595.41
 2. Formula Grant: \$18,174.81
 3. Program Donations: \$10,564.69
 4. General Donations: \$4739.64
- IV. **Events** –The board discussed the upcoming events
 1. **Bristol Elders Chronic Disease** – Thursdays from 9/26/24 – 10/31/24 from 9:00 – 11:30. MM pointed out that class was running in the other room and that attendance is good. KC updated the board that 10 people have signed up.
 2. **Crafting/Painting** – Thursday, Oct, 10th at 2:45. The project is a fall/woodland scene. KC said the sign-up sheet for the fall painting has been very popular and 20 people have signed up to attend.
 3. **Caregiver Support Group** – Rescheduled to October 16th at 1:00. KC explained to the board that Karen Fisher, who runs the group was sick and as a result the group had to be postponed. The board discussed the importance of this group and how there are people who really need a place to talk. The group will be held in the back conference room for privacy.
 4. **Illuminate Bottle Class** – Wednesday, October 16th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. \$10 for Berkley seniors and \$20 for other town's guests. A total of 9 seniors have signed up to participate with room for a total of 12.
 5. **Railroad Safety** - Monday, October, 21st at 5:00 p.m. The board discussed the upcoming railroad safety program that will be held for seniors in the COA. They discussed the importance of this topic and mentioned issues that had been talked about online concerning the rail lights and gate. The train has been in the road at the very same time that the lights go on. Arlene Medeiros talked about how loss of power effects the train and Kathy Strozyk said that the class will be a good reminder for seniors.
 6. **Ceramics** – September 11th at 12:00 the project will be pumpkins. KC discussed with the board the difficulty she has had filling the necessary spots to run ceramics class. The pumpkins class was advertised in the newsletter and samples of the upcoming projects are available in the COA to view. The pumpkin class only has 6 participants signed up and the lighted ornament has zero. KC said that the feedback has been that the lighted ornament was too expensive. KC also said that she had been told many times that the pumpkin project is nice but many people do not want any more nicknacks in their house. KC said that she spoke with Dale Pagano and canceled the lighted ornament project. She said she was waiting a little longer before making a final decision about the pumpkin class. KC said she would be running fewer ceramics classes in the future. MM suggested a bigger project as a special event perhaps at Easter. KC suggested supplementing that project for Berkley seniors to bring the cost down.
 7. **Brown Bag** – Wednesday, October 23rd KC discussed with the board the Brown Bag program. She stated that after advertising the program in the latest newsletter that the number of participants has grown. There are now 30 families who receive assistance.

8. **Stop The Bleed with Firefighter Liza Amaral** – Monday, November 4th at 9:00. MM shared with the board information about this program. KC went on to say how fortunate the COA is to have a resource like Liza available to us. She explained that Liza's programs are always very informative and well attended. KC stated there will be coffee and donuts available at this workshop.
9. **Card Workshop** – The holiday card workshop has been scheduled for November 21st at 9:00. KC stated at this time there are only 3 people signed up. MM stated the class is not until November so there is plenty of time. KC said last years cards were so beautiful that many people said that they were keeping them for themselves to decorate with.
10. **Holiday Party** – Saturday, December 14th. The board continued with their plans for the holiday party. There are 94 guests signed up. The guest list is mostly Berkley residents. The board discussed the need for raffle gifts. MM explained that small items are perfect, she made suggestions like a spaghetti bag, or a coffee cup with candy. KS said they should be holiday themed. KC said they should be turned into the COA by December 7th so we can see if we need additional items. AM suggested using funds from the program account if needed.
11. **Summer with the Ospreys** – Thursday, February 20th at 1:00. Carol Buote said that the library was also helping this event and they will hang up posters and help with the cost. KC said that she would only set up chairs so that more people can attend the event and that it was open to the public not only seniors.

V. Proposed New Events –

1. Refuse to be a Victim – KC said she had reached out to Kerrie Ann Auclair who runs the program and that they were working on a date.
2. Kindness Club – KC said she would reach out to the school to see if this event was going to happen and if it was to get a little more advanced notice.
3. Singo – KC is working on a date for this event and said it would happen during Bingo.
4. Movies – KC asked for movie suggestions for the winter – Some titles suggested were: Boys in the Boats, Groundhog Day, Sound of Freedom, Holdovers, and Wonka. MM stated that it should be light and funny.

VI. Cultural Council Grant – KC informed the board that she had sent out 3 letters of recommendation. The recipients were Fran Hart, Jumpin Juba, and Ed Priest. The board agreed to also send a letter for Lewis and Shea (if they can make their program lighter) and for Hip Hop Line Dance. The order of support is Hart, Priest, Juba, Lewis and Shea followed by Hip Hop. Hip Hop is last because it would be utilized by the fewest participants.

VII. Friends – There was no one from the friends at the meeting. MM said the friends will be covering the cost of up to 120 participants at the Christmas Party. She stated that they are also hosting a Veterans Day lunch on November 6th.

VIII. Public Input – The group talked about the chairs. KC said the chairs will be available at the next meeting. That they will be similar to the gold chairs and that they are the only option with padding without completely changing and having a stacking chair. MM suggested people bring a pad and it was brought up from William Verroch, in the audience, that the COA could sell embroidered chair pads. MM stated that the COA cannot fundraise but the Friends of the COA can. KS thanked William for the idea and said it would be shared. KC said she would like to replace only about half of the chairs if we do so people have options of which style chair that they prefer.

IX. Next Meeting – November 14th in the Hearing Room

X. Motion to Adjourn. The board voted to adjourn the meeting.