

BERKLEY COUNCIL ON AGING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
January 23, 2025

**Board Present:** Margaret Moroff, Carol Buote, Kathy Strozyk, Cathy Charette, 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** – The board voted to approve 11/14/24 meeting minutes.
- III. **FY 2024 Budget** - Krista Celia presented the financial report for December 31, 2024
  1. Town Budget Balance: Salary: \$17,206, Town Funded Accounts: \$2,793.01
  2. Formula Grant: \$24,954.49
  3. Program Donations: \$11,472.93
  4. General Donations: \$4946.39Krista Celia discussed the \$500 donation that was being gifted to the COA later that day from the owners of the new Mobile gas station in town.
- IV. **Events** – The board discussed the following upcoming events
  - a. Painting with Amy will be offered in the COA on 01/23/25. A spring painting class has also been scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:45. There are 22 people signed up to attend the 01/23/25 class. As a reminder, if you can not attend an event that you have signed up for that you should please call the COA and cancel.
  - b. Singo, Musical Bingo, will replace a scheduled Bingo in the COA on 01/29/25. There are 44 people signed up to attend. Given the popularity of the event, it will be scheduled again.
  - c. Assonet Neck with Eden Jones will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup>. There are 28 people signed up to attend.
  - d. Men's Group – The men's group has been scheduled for 02/06/25 and 03/05/25. A donation of a glass chess board was given to the COA from Rose Thomas. Margaret Moroff said that she would like to ask Joe Freitas to stop in on the day of the men's group.
  - e. Refuse to be a Victim will be held on 02/10/25 and 02/24/25. Krista Celia told the board that Kerrie Ann has the ability to take orders for items like pepper spray or sliding door stoppers. She asked the board if they would like Kerrie Ann to have that catalog of items available to participants. The board said yes.
  - f. Summer with the Ospreys will be offered in conjunction with Berkley Public Library on 02/20/25. There are 26 people signed up to attend. There will be refreshments.
  - g. Brown Bag and Blood Pressure clinic are scheduled for 12/18/24. There are currently 33 participants. There is no income requirement to participate in the Brown Bag program.
  - h. Caregiver Support Group – Outreach Coordinator, Karen Fisher has scheduled a new set of sessions for the Caregiver Support Group. This group will be open to both new and former participants.
  - i. Jewelry Making – This class will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 and will feature a sea glass pendent. Signups will start soon. The fee is \$20 a person and it is for just the pendent with the sterling silver wrap. Berkley residents will pay half of the fee while out of town participants will pay for the entire class. The class was advertised in the newsletter as a pendent only. Nan Thompson offered to donate some cord that she had at home from prior projects.
  - j. Cultural Council grant recipient Edward Priest will be performing an Irish Sign Along during the Friend's luncheon on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - k. Podiatry will be held in the COA on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

- l. Steven Manchester will be presenting his latest book, *You Will Be Peter*, on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00. The speaker fee is \$100.
  - m. Spring Card Making Class is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - n. Panel of Experts - This panel was put together by Oasis Senior Advisors and will include 3 panelists. The panelists include Jim Monte from Oasis, a financial advisor, and an attorney. Each panelist will speak for 5 – 10 minutes. They will then answer group questions, followed by time for each of them to speak with individuals one on one. There will be light refreshments provided by Oasis.
  - o. Cultural Council grant recipient Jumpin Juba will perform at the Friend's luncheon on May 21<sup>st</sup>. While on the topic of luncheons the board discussed changes moving forward with to-go meals. Lunches offered at the COA will need to be consumed while in the COA. There will no longer be to-go meals or take-home meals. This change is in response to the Executive Office of Elderly Affairs food safety policy. Concern was expressed that this will not be a popular change.
  - p. Fran Hart – Will perform in August. Krista Celia is waiting on the date confirmation. The program will be called the Beat Generation and Krista Celia said she would like to run it with a meal again and hopes to have the friends pay for the catering.
- V. **Budget Planning** – Krista Celia informed the board that the town has proposed a 1.2 % budget increase. However, with the COA's limited budget, this increase would only amount to \$500, which is insufficient to cover the Outreach Coordinator position. Krista Celia presented a budget that she intends to present that is above the 1.2%. The budget will keep the baseline funds level funded. There will be an increase to the director's salary based on the nonunion grid. Karen Fisher will not be returning to Berkley after the Outreach grant runs out. Krista Celia said she plans to ask the town for an Outreach Coordinator/Assistant. The salary amount that the Town Administrator gave her to use for budgeting the position was \$20.45 per hour for 10 hours a week. The board discussed the importance of advocating for this position. The board discussed the position name. Currently the COA has an unfunded administrative assistant position that has remained open. The board decided to try and keep the administrative assistant position and change its job description to include outreach.
- VI. **Friends** – There were no representatives from the Friends group at the meeting. However, Margaret Moroff gave a brief update on their upcoming events. The friends have programs at the Venus and Lake Pearl, as well as trips to Myrtle Beach and New Hampshire. Monthly luncheons are also scheduled. Krista Celia reported that the friends purchased 20 chairs. The board voted unanimously in favor to have Krista Celia purchase 10 additional chairs and to ask the friends to cover the cost.
- VII. **Public Input** – The board discussed the importance of reaching individuals who need assistance but do not actively seek help.
- VIII. **Next Meeting** – Krista suggested moving the meeting to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month moving forward. The next meeting was scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in the hearing room.
- IX. **Motion to Adjourn.** The board voted to adjourn the meeting.