

BERKLEY COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING
02/20/2025

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 9:31 in the hearing room. She reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded.
- II. **Acceptance of Prior Minutes** – The board voted to accept 12/05/24 & 01/23/25 meeting minutes.
- III. **FY 2024 Budget** - Krista Celia presented the financial report for January 31, 2025
 1. Town Budget Balance: Salary: \$13,519, Town Funded Accounts: \$2,262.12
 2. Formula Grant: \$23,311.73
 3. Program Donations: \$11,231.95
 4. General Donations: \$5,554.64Krista 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. Summer with the Ospreys will be held 02/20/25 with the library in the COA. There are 29 people signed up to attend.
 - b. Brown Bag and Blood Pressure clinic are scheduled for 02/26/25. There are currently 36 participants. To have the bags delivered directly to Berkley, the COA would need 100 participants. If the number of participants continues to grow more volunteers will be needed.
 - c. Care Giver Support Group - This group meets once a month in a series of sessions. This session so far has only one sign up. This group is in jeopardy with the loss of the COA's Outreach Coordinator.
 - d. Jewelry Making – This class will be held on February 27th at 12:00 and will feature a sea glass pendent. There are 15 people signed up.
 - e. Men's Group – The men's group has been scheduled for 03/05/25 and 04/16/25. The first group meeting in February was canceled due to weather. There has been interest expressed for this group by visitors to the center.
 - f. Cultural Council grant recipient Edward Priest will be performing Irish Music during the Friend's luncheon on March 19th. There is still time to sign up and there is still room. As a reminder, the COA will no longer allow food to leave the center.
 - g. Podiatry will be held in the COA on March 20th
 - h. Painting with Amy will be held on March 20th at 2:45 the project is a spring painting.
 - i. Steven Manchester will be presenting his latest book, You Will Be Peter, on March 26th at 3:00.
 - j. Spring Card Making Class is scheduled for March 27th at 9:00. Currently there are only 2 people signed up to attend.
 - k. 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. The focus will be on how to plan for senior living. 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.
 - l. Learning Fire Safety Through History with Firefighter/EMT Liza Amaral. This event will be held in the COA on 04/10/25 at 9:00. The focus will be historic fires in public places, lessons learned, and preparing for personal safety in public fire situations.

- m. Lunch and Learn with Bristol Aging and Wellness presented by Dawn Demarco. The program will be Nutrition Jeopardy and will be held on 05/04/25 at 12:00. Lunch will be provided and will arrive prepared. It will be chicken salad sandwiches with three bean salad.
- n. Cultural Council grant recipient Jumpin Juba will perform at the Friend's luncheon on May 21st. Jumpin Juba will perform the second half of the friend's lunch. They are a blues folk band.
- o. Fran Hart – This cultural council grant recipient has performed at the COA for the past few years. He will be performing his program The Beat Generation, 1950s pm on August 11th at 4:00.

- V. **Outreach** – The board discussed and decided to ask the finance committee for funding for the existing position Administrative Assistant rather than create a new position called Outreach during this difficult fiscal time. The Administrative Assistant would also perform Outreach. The board asked to remove the requirement for Shine Certification and also removing the 3 – 5-year experience requirement. The group felt that the pay offered for this position would not be sufficient to find someone to meet those requirements. The board asked to have the home visits removed from the job description. This position cannot be funded by the formula grant or donations over and extended period.
- VI. **Budget Planning** – The board was presented 2 budgets. The first one showed a 1.2 budget increase of \$504 dollars. This budget does not allow for Outreach Coordinator and also reduces the Directors hours by 2 hours a week. This would cause the COA to reducing hours. The second budget presented was the ideal budget. It included the Outreach Coordinator as well as the Director pay bump that is from the town grid. There are no extras and the remainder of the line items would be level funded. Based on the 1.2 budget the seniors will be affected. The center will reduce hours and without an assistant/outreach worker outreach programs like fuel assistance will be referred out. This is problematic because seniors will have to wait longer for services and for seniors who have mobility and transportation challenges this puts their services at risk.
- VII. **Friends** – There were no representatives from the Friends group at the meeting.
- VIII. **Public Input** – There was no public input.
- IX. **Next Meeting** – March 20, 2025
- X. **Motion to Adjourn.** The board voted to adjourn the meeting.