

**Franklin Council on Aging
November 15, 2022**

Members Present: Bob Crowley (Chair), Jan Jewett (Vice Chair), Lyn O'Brien (Secretary), Ken Norman, Faith Flaherty, Janet Jewett, Lester Quan, Phyllis Malcolm, Bob Kaufman, Kimberly Mu-Chow.

Also Present: Danielle Hopkins (FSC Director), Christina LaRose (FSC Deputy Director), Nan Rafter (FOFE Vice President), Maggie Gundersen (Social Services Coordinator).

Absent: None

Meeting started at 10:02 am

Minutes from meeting on October 11, 2022: Approved as amended.

Citizen's Comments: None

Correspondence: None

Directors Report: (Danielle Hopkins) (See attached report for details)

1. Another PT cook (Loretta) hired to join Marilyn.
2. Maggie G and Sue B will be retiring effective 11/30/22. New positions for a FT Program Coordinator and Social Service Coordinator will be posted. Job description for the Program Coordinator was updated and is attached to this report.
3. Winter Wonderland planned for Thursday, 12/15/22. Event will be primarily outdoors due to on-going concerns with the CoVID 19 pandemic and other community acquired diseases popular in the wintertime.
4. Pool table is being re-felted and spruced up.
5. Tax Work-Off will be starting, Danielle to coordinate at this time. 100 spots for Seniors and 100 spots for Veterans.
6. Starting January, new vender (LPI) for the Newsletter allowing for more space and advertising.
7. SWOT Analysis: (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunity-Threats). (See New Business)
8. Program Statistics: Reviewed, categories were grouped together and refined so numbers look different. Report now aligns better for future reports and funding. (see attached).

Chairman's Report: (Bob Crowley)

K of C – Acknowledge how much their donations of pies are appreciated.

FOFE Report: (JoAnn Wright)

- Potential member list reviewed, approximately 13,000 Franklin residents qualify and will receive a recruitment postcard.
- Ben Franklin Charter School is decorating 100 cards to be distributed with gift cards included to qualifying seniors in Franklin.

Old Business:

- Chair – Thank you to Jan Jewitt for putting the COA Board Member Manual together. Brief discussion on adding a FOFE document with information on what FOFE does.
- Housing Committee: COA is debating whether to drop this committee as it has not been active for years. Maggie G was invited to this meeting today to comment. She highly advocates for the housing committee to resume as the need for housing in Franklin is critical. The role for committee member would be to represent the FSC at community meetings regarding housing options. Maggie emphasized that there is no available housing or affordable housing for seniors. The average salary in Franklin is now \$118,000 so that makes the 80% salary line set at \$95,000. Only 25 % of available units will be available to this population. This completely eliminates those coming into the SC for housing assistance, with an average income of \$1200/month. Shelters are not safe for seniors and bring them away from their communities. The fastest growing population of homelessness are senior women. Eaton place has a 3 year wait list. Central Park Terrace is 6-12 months. The Ridges (new housing) approval has been delayed for years. St. John's is planning to build affordable housing but low income seniors will have very limited access.
- Motion to put the Housing Committee back on the table by Bob, second by Ken, all members approved. Faith and Kim both volunteered to be on this committee. A third volunteer would be ideal.

New business/ November Agenda:

SWOT Analysis: (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunity-Threats). COA members discussed each area:

S: Size, vision, meals, supportive groups, dementia programs, reputation, outreach, large number of offered programs and services, alliance with GATRA, alliance with the food pantry, Veteran's Benefits, all inclusive, dedicated volunteers, library, store.

W: Staff shortages/lack of competitive wages, not enough outreach, no bus, no trainer for equipment, no evening/weekend hours, tracking system not accurate.

O: New friends, community leaders, Grants, bus for trips with driver, growth of building, meals to go, volunteering, partnership with other senior centers.

T: Loss of staff, competition, bad weather, lack of funding, cost of programming.

Knights of Columbus: Thanksgiving Pie Distribution on November from 11-1. 170-175 pies donated. COA members asked to volunteer both on Tuesday night to collect the pies and Wednesday to distribute. Plenty of members volunteered.

Comments: None

Motion to adjourn by Bob C, second Ken Norman and approved, meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Next Meeting: December 13,2022 10:00 am, Franklin Senior Center

Respectfully submitted by Lyn O'Brien, COA Secretary