

Chaplin Senior Center

Board of Directors

132 Chaplin Street

Chaplin, CT 06235

The Board of Directors for the Chaplin Senior Center met for a special meeting remotely via Gotomeeting on Tuesday, **February 15, 2022**.

Members present: Chairperson Irene Schein, Catherine Dietrichsen, Crystal Gebhardt, Shirley Rakos, Ann Lewis, Jeanette Haines, and Walt Zlotnick, alternates Robin Hoagland and Dawn Gilbert, Director Lisa Kegler, and Victoria Northrop (recording clerk).

- 1. Irene Schein called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.** Robin Hoagland was seated for Carl Linkkila, Dawn Gilbert for Ellen Gillon
- 2. Audience for Citizens:** None present
- 3. Revision of the 2022-23 Budget in light of new information and finalize the Budget for submission:**

Lisa Kegler gave an update on the budget. After going through the numbers, the Center is now doing 2 lunches/week and serving more people, so Lisa would like to increase the salary lines of Bob Grindle and Dawn (2000 for Bob, 400 for Dawn). Everything else remained the same as at the last meeting when the Board initially discussed it on February 1st. Last year's budget was 77,176.53. Next year's will be 83,241.63, a \$6065.10 increase. Jeanette asked how the process for this revision would work and Irene said they'll have to go back to BOF to try to adjust it. There may be some leftover funds in the assistant director's budget line which will cover the shortfall. Jeanette asked if the BOF will automatically approve this. Irene and Lisa have stated that there is no fluff to the budget; it should be approved because it's needed in order to continue to serve the people. The increase will cover the labor costs of serving more lunches. Lisa says at some point the Center will need to limit the number of lunches that Bob and Dawn have to produce because there are budget limitations. Ann asked whether we are increasing the budget to match the work Bob and Dawn are already doing, and Lisa responded that, in fact, this is the case. Crystal asked if the return to indoor dining post-pandemic will increase the hours needed to work. Lisa said yes, this will add to the hours needed due to an increase in indoor patrons. Lisa also says we need more volunteers. Dawn says that they can handle, for example, an extra 10 meals, because sometimes there are people who think they signed up or didn't sign up who still want to buy a meal and the kitchen plans for this. Holidays are peak numbers of diners (Christmas, for example).

Ann suggests the Center actually set at some point a maximum limit on the number of lunches that can be served due to budgetary constraints. Irene says if things get tough, we can always address the issue by drawing from the special revenue fund and recommends approving the budget and then dealing with any increase in lunches served as it arises.

Jeanette asked whether the increases in food prices have had an effect on the lunch costs. The food budget currently comes out of the special revenue. The lunch fees go into the special revenue. Thus far, Bob has stayed within the budget for the lunches due to frugal purchasing of materials. The Board is, therefore, discussing labor costs, as they are the only thing that comes out of the regular budget. Lisa doesn't want to be short for Bob or Dawn's salary, which is why she has added to the line items for this.

Irene asked for a motion to change the budget to reflect this. Jeanette made the motion, Ann Lewis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Grant for Equipment and discussion of which equipment to apply for:

Lisa was informed about a grant being offered to help the Senior Center to purchase expensive durable equipment: Ann Lewis clarified that Senior Resources has a grant they can give, one-time non-renewable equipment purchase of up to \$5000 per agency (with the stipulation that the funds cannot be used for a vehicle). The Center would have to match 15% of the total cost for the item(s).

What piece of equipment should the Senior Center pursue with this? A massage chair for the seniors could be considered. It would not take the place of the massage therapist. It would be supervised initial use, possibly with a waiver signed, and then people could use it independently. It could be placed in the lounge. Crystal asked about kitchen equipment, Walt asked about office equipment, Victoria asked about a Hoyer lift (Ann responded that that might entail too much liability and special training). Ann Lewis suggested a recumbent elliptical trainer or other exercise equipment.

Any grant would have to be spent by Aug. 1, 2022. The application for the grant has to be in by February 18th. Catherine mentioned a slim-cycle that one person could move around and it would fit in a closet. The upcoming senior population seems to be more physically active. Crystal asked about a tent – Lisa said the liability and maintenance is complex so rental of the tent would be a better option. The Board, after discussion, decided to apply for a grant for both a massage chair and a recumbent elliptical trainer. Dawn makes the motion, Walt seconds. Shirley opposes because she thinks it's going to mean that both items will be of lesser quality and there is no designated space for exercise equipment, everyone else voted for, although there is some hubbub and some members want to change their vote. Walt states he wants to recast his vote and says he would prefer to have the expensive chair. Walt moves, Shirley seconds to rescind the last motion. Catherine and Crystal abstain. The motion is rescinded. Walt recommends just a massage chair being the target of the grant as a motion, Dawn seconds. All in favor but Catherine, who is opposed because she thinks physical exercise is important to seniors and thinks there's enough money for both. The motion carries with all but Catherine's vote.

5. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m. Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk