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REHOBOTH, MA

Rehoboth Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
@ Gladys L. Hurrell Rehoboth Senior Center
Minutes of April 17, 2019

- 1) **Call to order**---7:00 p.m.
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3) **Members Present**--- Charlene Cunha, Ron Whittemore, Neal Harrington, Dr. Bruce Thayer, Dr. Robert Lambe and Linda Sherman

Members Excused--- MaryBeth Moriarty, Sue Laverdiere

Guests Present--- Mr. & Mrs. Ken Ryan

- 4) **Review past months meeting minutes**---Feb. 20th 2019 Minutes were approved- Dr. Lambe 1st motion, Charlene 2nd motioned. March 12th 2019 were approved- Charlene 1st and Ron 2nd motioned.
- 5) **Presentations**--- Palmer River Time Bank- presented by Mr. & Mrs. Ken Ryan.

Mr. Ryan introduced himself as a longtime resident of Rehoboth and further explained about the 'Palmer River Time Bank' and what benefits it has to offer for our Seniors in our community. The 'Time Bank' is international and has about 120 branches in the U.S. Mr. Ryan wants to start a branch locally and also the surrounding towns of Swansea, Seekonk and Somerset. Mr. Ryan discussed how this program could help our Seniors to become more involved in our community and how we could all help each other when it is needed. There are over 100 categories that our Retired Seniors could sign up for. Mr. Ryan wanted our C.O.A. Senior Center to become part of this 'Time Bank' program organization as a whole to bring on any of our Seniors who would be interested in signing up and becoming involved in this 'Time Bank' program. Mr. Ryan is in process of setting up 'The Palmer River Time Bank' as a nonprofit organization by the I.R.S. Mr. Ryan would also be doing C.O.R.I. checks which would be at no cost, if they get approved as a nonprofit organization by the I.R.S. There is a special software for this 'Time Bank' program and anyone interested would register online, set up what you can offer and list 2 references with their contact phone numbers. Mr. Ryan would be overlooking this whole process very carefully. An example of this 'Time Bank' process would be someone with Computer skills- This person would help someone that was in need via the 'Palmer River Time Bank' requests- The I.T. person would donate 1 hour of his time and this 1 hour of time would go into the 'Time Bank' as 1 credit to use at a later time for the I.T. person to use for maybe yard work or maybe a ride to a Doctor's appointment that the I.T. person may need help with for himself at a later time. 'Palmer River Time Bank' members would log into the website and put in their requests that they need help with and also check to see who needs their help. There are over 100 talent categories to sign up for in the 'Time Bank'. They can volunteer at local functions, grocery shop for those who are sick or can't drive, housekeeping, dog walking or even simple handyman work. These are just a few examples to choose from.

Ron W. had a question on the 'Time Banking' process and if credits received were not used- can they be donated? Mr. Ryan said that hours/credits received can also be donated for those who are in need, or are too sick to volunteer time. Mr. Ryan would also follow up on requests from the 'Time Bank' that were not being followed up on. There would also be a \$20 annual enrollment fee to join and also stay registered into this 'Time Bank' program.

The COA Board motioned to approve the Palmer River Time Bank for further evaluation for the Town Selectmen.

- 6) **Expense Reports**--- COA budget reports look fine, no questions. COA monthly reports look fine, no questions.
- 7) **Director's Report**---

Mother's Day Tea- is scheduled for May 9th

Kalifornia Karl Karaoke- will perform on May 20th

Sara Kanarian- we will be honoring Sara Kanarian's 100th Birthday on May 20th

T.R.I.A.D. -will sponsor Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 20th. They also are planning another trip which will be in Plymouth.

- 8) **Old Business**---Ron W. wanted to update the Board on the HVAC system. It has been a long process and the checklist of things are now completed. The leaking pipe fitting in basement is fixed, motion sensors are working for the exhaust fans in the bathrooms. There are a few more issues on the checklist that will be fixed at the C.O.A. 1st is the internal leak in the valve for A.H. #3-will be repaired by the plumber, Jim Sine. 2nd fix will be for 1 of the 3 Honeywell brand thermostats here. It has a programming issue and the instruction manual is vague. Ron will try and resolve this himself before calling the vendor to come down to fix it. 3rd and last will be the 'Shut off' for the propane source in the building. This needs to be 'brought up to code', which would need a sensor and shut off solenoid valve. This fix will sound off an alarm and the propane will shut off. This can ONLY be reset by the Fire Dept.
- 9) **New Business**--- Pat Messier, who already has been volunteering here in the kitchen, also has a nursing background. Linda would like to train her to help with Brad. Pat has met with Lisa Sarkis at S.H.I.N.E., who runs the program for our area, and Pat is very interested to move forward and train. Pat would be attending specialized courses for the S.H.I.N.E. program and would be interning with Brad. This will be extremely beneficial here, especially during annual open enrollment. Pat would also be able to help Brad with Fuel Assistance and Food Stamp requests as well. Linda asked the Board if we could move forward with Pat helping us out in these duties. Pat would be a great addition here. Linda asked the Board for their approval to move forward with this request. Dr. Lambe moved to approve Pat Messier to train and take the necessary courses and requirements needed to become a S.H.I.N.E. volunteer. Ron W. 1st and Dr. Thayer 2nd the motion.
- 10) **B.E.S.I. Report**--- Dr. Thayer spoke with them today and things 'are stable'. B.E.S.I. is looking into getting a different food vendor, they do have a lot of food vendors interested but there are some complicated issues with changing vendors and did not have any details on this. Linda stated that the Meals on Wheels food being delivered here looked good and we have not had any issues with the food or deliveries. Dr. Thayer will keep us posted on any further information. B.E.S.I. does have a new Nutritionist there at the main site. Dr. Thayer suggested that maybe they could come here during Gert's Café and go over a presentation on nutrition. Nancy Munson who is the director at B.E.S.I. is trying to collect funding for this. Dr. Thayer said he would pass any concerns along over to Ms. Munson. They do have a new Financial Director over there as well and things have been going well on that end.
- 11) **Friends of the Rehoboth Elderly Report**--- Nothing to report
- 12) **Correspondence**---Nothing to report
- 13) **C.O.A. Building usage**--- 1st request for Senior Citizens Club FY 19-20 to hold their meetings every other 1st and 3rd Thurs. of the month. Dr. Lambe approved- Ron W. 1st and Dr. Thayer 2nd motioned. 2nd request for Best is Yet to Come Club FY 19-20 to hold their meetings every 2nd Thurs. of the month. Dr. Lambe approved- Ron 1st and Dr. Thayer 2nd motioned.
- 14) **Open Forum**--- Dr. Thayer wanted to discuss looking into the 'Time Bank' program further. He agreed with the Board endorsing this program for further review, but wanted more clear details on the program to fully understand it. Dr. Thayer asked if anyone else felt the same as he did. Ron W. agreed that more information is needed on this program. Dr. Lambe agreed with both Dr. Thayer and Ron. Dr. Lambe was concerned with 'Liability' issues and that there would be no protection for the volunteers if something went wrong with any projects that were done in this program. Dr. Thayer asked about a 'disclaimer' and Dr. Lambe stated that the 'disclaimer' was for the 'Time Bank' itself not being liable, not the volunteer themselves. Dr. Lambe wants to get input from the Selectmen on this program. Dr. Thayer likes the idea of the program itself and the history behind it, but needs more time to think about some of the concerns that were addressed. Dr. Lambe and Ron W. questioned the \$20 enrollment fee.

Dr. Lambe wants the Selectmen to review this program as well, but thinks that they will agree on the 'liability' concerns as well. Dr. Lambe is not sure how the Town's Counsel will feel about the legal aspects of this program. The Board suggested that a letter be composed to the Selectmen stating that the C.O.A. Board did not agree to sign up for the 'Time Bank' program but will discuss it for further review.

15) **Other Business Issues**---None

16) **Adjournment**---7:57pm- Dr. Robert Lambe motioned to adjourn meeting- Ron Whitemore 1st motioned and Dr. Thayer 2nd motioned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Robens- Secretary*

Approved by:



Dr. Robert Lambe
C.O.A. Board President

Next COA Board Meeting- To be determined at a later time