

FRIENDS OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING MINUTES

March 21, 2019

Attending: Diana Bishop, Suzanne Caton, Mickey Khazam, Lorain Marquis, Rebecca Morris, Jane Trudeau

COA Liaison: Ellen Cameron. Staff: Hemali Shah and Susan Barrett. Guest: Gerry O'Neil.

1. Staff Report on LexConnect Usage and Cost. Susan Barrett.
 - a. Vouchers Redeemed have grown from 896 in 2013 the first year of operation to 4048 in Fiscal Year(FY) 2018 which ended on June 30th,2018.
 - b. To date FY 2019 which began on July 1,2018 and runs to June 30,2019 the income from voucher sales is \$13,000.00 with payments to the cab company of \$26,000. It is expected by June 30th there will be \$20,000 of income and \$42,000. Of cost. The difference is subsidized by us, \$10,000. And a Dana Home grant of \$2500.00 per year. There was a rolled over balance of \$8000.00 in the LexConnect account as of the beginning of the year. The program is in financially secure for this 2018-2019 year.
 - c. Attached you will find a summary prepared by Susan of FY 2018 vouchers redeemed, trips taken, number of people who took the trips.
 - d. 25% of the 206 users are Brookhaven residents. Brookhaven has made a grant of \$1537.50 towards the cost of LexConnect in FY 2018.
2. Hemali reported on the first U of Mass survey focus group held on Monday, March 18th. 75 people attended and the three most mentioned concerns were as follows:
 - a. LexConnect now requires 24 hours notice. People wanted Uber type instantaneous response and ride. Susan reported that the cab company uses one cab and one driver for LexConnect and prior notice is important for scheduling. The pros of one driver is that users know him and like him.
 - b. Affordable housing for middle class seniors who want to stay in Lexington.
 - c. More Disability designated parking in Lexington Center. Also problem of reaching meter when there are snow banks.
 - d. The next focus group is at 6Pm at the Community Center on this Monday, March 25th. All ages are invited.
 - e. There will be a followup survey mailed to 3000 randomly selected Senior households.
 - f. A strength reported by the participants was the number of organizations that exist for serving Seniors in the Town with the Community Center programs and meals, Human Services Department support, Lexington at Home, the congregate meal offered free every Wed evening.
3. Voted. To transfer the sum of \$8000.00, the remainder of our \$16,000.00 annual pledge with \$3000.00 for the Human Services Department's trips, lunches and programs, and \$5000.00 for LexConnect. We contributed the other one-half (1/2) in the Fall.
4. Voted. To use\$2500.00 from the Furnstahl Wellness fund for the Sensory Garden being implemented by the Garden Club. The new garden was an accepted Bright Ideas proposal. We also proposed a plaque honoring the Furnstahls for their contribution of \$10,000.00 to the FCOA.
5. Voted: to accept the December 2018 and February 2019 Minutes

6. A summer issue is planned for “ LifeTimes”,the creative arts journal highlighting writings and art work by Lexington residents 60 and over. We plan to make it self-funded by selling ads. Suggestions for advertisers welcome!
7. OWLL has finalized next Fall’s offerings and is now working on the Spring of 2020. We offered 3 courses for the Winter session and have 5 courses this Spring.
8. Elaine Smith has resigned from the FCOA for personal reasons but we are delighted she will remain on the OWLL committee. We need one new member. Suggestions welcome.

Our next meeting is on April 18,2019 at 9:30AM at the Community Center.

Jane Trudeau, Clerk