

## Friends of the Lexington Council on Aging Virtual Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2020

**Members Present:** Janice Kennedy, Chair; Suzanne Caton, Peter Holland, Sudhir Jain, Mickey Khazam, Lorain Marquis, Shirley Stolz, Jane Trudeau, Chris Worcester

**Guests:** Marion Kilson, Betty Borghesani

**Staff Present:** Melissa Interest, Michelle Kelleher, Hemali Shah

### Old Business:

- Minutes of May 21, 2020 were accepted.
- Guests Marion Kilson (chair of OWLL committee), and Betty Borghesani (co-chair of Lexington COA) were introduced.

### Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer's report was accepted by the board.

### Staff Reports:

- Michelle reported that all Human Services programs are online and going well.
- Staff will be returning to the Community Center at 25% staffing for the time being.
- The July - August SAGE Senior Newsletter will be out on Monday.
- Human Services will offer two Grab and Go food events:
  - Ice cream in July
  - Lunch in August
- Human Services uses email blasts for sharing information on programs and events.
- Colonial Times recently had an excellent article on Human Services programs and events.

### OWLL Report:

- Marion Kilson discussed the highlights of her written report. See written report at end.
- Plans for the Fall and Winter sessions are under development now.
- A free Zoom course by Bill Gette on nature and culture in exotic places will be offered. Registration is required and limited to 100 viewers.

### Lexington LifeTimes Summer 2020 Report:

- Suzanne reported that the Summer 2020 edition is at the Town printers. 200 copies will be printed and also posted on the FCOA web site.
- This issue was completely funded by the FCOA and we gave our longtime advertisers space without charge.
- Jane noted that the magazine can be posted online anytime. We do not need to wait until printed copies are ready.

**Bright Ideas Report:**

- Suzanne reported that a grant of \$500 was given to Help Around Town's founder, Reem Yared, to allow her to hire a person to help seniors more easily access the online service.
- Janice requested that Reem Yared give the FCOA a report on her use of the funds.
- Shirley noted that the Garden Club has taken over maintenance of the planter boxes behind the Community Center that a Bright Ideas grant paid for in 2019.

**Publicity Committee:**

- Rebecca Morris and Suzanne Caton have had articles printed in the Minuteman and Colonial Times about Bright Ideas, Help Around Town and our Winter reception for the LifeTimes contributors.

**Fundraising Committee:**

- We must decide on a Fall fundraising mailing. Dan Fenn's letter was very successful netting 11,000.00

**New Business:**

- Janice reviewed her Annual Report and emphasized that FCOA needs to nurture its committees, provide better documentation including possibly separating the role of Clerk into Clerk and Recording Secretary, and creating a board book which could assist in onboarding new members.
- Members thanked Janice for her leadership for the past several years.
- Janice shared the list of 2020-21 FCOA members and President, Treasurer, and Clerk. See list on website.

The meeting, which commenced at 9:45 am via Zoom, was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by

Suzanne Caton, acting Clerk

## **OWLL Report for 2019-2020**

June 16, 2020

To: Janice Kennedy, Chair FCOA

Fr: Marion Kilson, Chair OWLL Program Committee

Re: Annual Report for 2019-2020 OWLL Program

During 2019-2020 the OWLL Program Committee members were Mary Hamilton, Mickey Khazam, Marion Kilson, Elaine Smith, Shirley Stolz, Jane Trudeau, and Chris Worcester. Michelle Kelleher provided exceptionally helpful Human Services Department staff support to our efforts.

Like so many aspects of life during this year, OWLL programming was disrupted by the Covid19 pandemic. In the fall and winter sessions courses were offered as planned at the Community Center; while one Spring course was partially offered before it and the other four planned spring courses were cancelled. In planning for the coming summer and fall, we are offering a free summer course on Zoom and four fall courses on Zoom at our customary tuition cost of \$25/course. Instructors continue to receive compensation at \$100/course meeting (e.g., \$400 for a course meeting four times) plus expenses, such as copying.

In Fall 2019, OWLL offered five courses: Poetry of Walt Whitman with Tom Daley, Hamlet with Elizabeth Kenney, Africa with Robert Rotberg, Musical Trio: Brahms, Wieck, and Schumann with DoBy Burstein, and Neuroscience with Wellesley College Professors. Two other planned courses were not offered because of an instructor's illness and lack of student interest in a course.

During the winter session, Bill Gette repeated his popular Introduction to Ornithology, Dotty Burstein offered a course on Chopin, and David Rose presented Rethinking Learning Abilities and Disabilities.

For the Spring 2020, five courses were planned. One the course on Climate Change was partially completed before the cancellation of OWLL courses due to the pandemic. Some of the planned courses will be offered on Zoom, but not all teaching styles are appropriate for Zoom.

Despite the program difficulties associated with the pandemic, the OWLL program had a successful year thanks to the resilience of committee members, the support of Human Services and Community Center staff, the interest of Lexington seniors in our courses, and the expertise of our instructors. Our current bank account is approximately \$17,000.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marion Kilson, Chair  
OWLL Program Committee