

Friends of the Lexington Council on Aging

Virtual Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2020

Members Present: Janice Kennedy, Chair; Suzanne Caton, Peter Holland, Sudhir Jain, Lorain Marquis, Rebecca Morris, Shirley Stolz, Jane Trudeau

Staff Present: Melissa Interest, Michelle Kelleher, Hemali Shah

Treasurer's Report:

- The Town's refund of OWLL funds to the FCOA has been held up.
- \$2400 from the Furnstahl Fund was used to pay for online courses provided by Human Services due to the closure of the Community Center because of the pandemic.
- Janice will send a note to the Furnstahl family describing the use of the funds.
- A contribution to an Alzheimer's organization was made by the FCOA in memory of Max Khazam
- The Lexington Field and Garden Club is taking care of the sensory garden planters at the Community Center so the FCOA does not need to spend any further funds on the planters
- The Treasurer's report was accepted by the board.

Staff Reports:

- Michelle reported that Human Services is using Zoom to run a number of online programs, including the physical activity classes that ran for 8 weeks and were paid for with Furnstahl funds.
- Hemali reported on the mental health virtual programming being provided by Human Services using State funds.
- Hemali noted that Human Services will be requesting further funding from FCOA for additional cultural programming for seniors that is still in the planning phase.
- In response to a request from Peter Holland, Hemali agreed to provide to the board a memo describing what funds from the FCOA are still unspent and what new programming they would like to have funds for.

OWLL Report:

- Shirley noted that some of the Fall programs will be offered online, some will not. She also noted that the OWLL committee is discussing possibly reducing tuition for the online courses.
- Jane discussed some of the options the OWLL committee is considering for the Fall.
- Becky Morris suggested that the OWLL committee should consider doing previews of possible classes to gauge interest in the topics and get input on what tuition is reasonable.

Lexington LifeTimes Summer 2020 Report:

- Suzanne reported that the Summer 2020 edition is underway.
- A special section was added to this edition called "Random Observations at the Time of Coronavirus." It was added to provide an opportunity to capture and express reactions to the pandemic.

- No underwriters were solicited for this edition but ads for the publication's most supportive underwriters are being included free of charge.

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.

New Business:

- Shirley asked whether the Lex Connect taxi voucher program is being used during the pandemic. Melissa and Michelle responded that the program is being used. They also noted that, since LexPress service has been halted due to pandemic concerns, some of that money is being used to provide taxi service to needy residents.
- Sudhir Jain described the safety precautions being implemented by LexPress and the taxi service.
- Melissa reported that food delivery is continuing in Town during the stay-at-home period.
- Lorain emphasized that the FCOA needs to be actively recruiting new members. She suggested that the COA be asked about possible candidates.
- Lorain also mentioned several fund-raising options that the FCOA should consider and noted that the FCOA sub-committees need to have chairmen appointed.
- Hemali noted that Human Services have several teen volunteers who can help seniors with any online issues.
- Janice announced that the FCOA Annual Meeting will be held on June 18 via Zoom.

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

Respectfully submitted by

Suzanne Caton, acting Clerk