

## Preston Senior Affairs Committee

The February 2, 2021 Preston Senior Affairs Committee teleconference meeting was called to order by Chairman Elizabeth Bassette at 1:00 p.m. Members in attendance included Elizabeth Bassette, Morris Fishbone and Frances Minor. Members excused included Mary Lou Jensen and Marie Perrin. A quorum was present.

F. Minor read the following information: **Per Lamont's Executive Order 7b: Participants are reminded to state your name and title before speaking. Please help us make this conference call as useful as possible by keeping your phone on mute when not speaking. We are keeping the line open to all participants by default, but if background noise becomes a problem, we will mute all participants and ask participants to use "chat" to be selectively unmuted.**

### **Minutes:**

January 5, 2021: M. Fishbone made a motion to accept the January 5, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by F. Minor. Motion approved

January 20, 2021 Special Meeting: M. Fishbone made a motion to accept the January 20, 2021 Special Meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by F. Minor. Motion approved.

**Correspondence:** None at this time.

**Financial report:** F. Minor reviewed the year-to-date expenditures. Special attention was given to the necessary replacement of the 15-year-old hot water heater and the salt pellets for the water filtration system. M. Fishbone inquired as to the other expenditures in the Senior Center-Repairs-Supplies line item. Exterior fixtures were replaced in the entrance of the building due to water damage; repair to faucets leaking in bathrooms, kitchen sink lifted from stainless steel counter top, emergency light battery was replaced in meeting room in addition to small housekeeping supply purchases. Routine expenditures for utilities, heating oil and employee wages encompass the remaining line-item deductions. A motion was made by M. Fishbone to accept the Financial report as presented. F. Minor seconded the motion. Motion approved.

### **Old Business:**

- a. Flu Clinic (brochure) project on hold curing COVID-19 pandemic.
- b. Fiscal Budget: The Senior Affairs Committee conducted a Special Meeting and budget

workshop on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Adhering to the request to provide level funding budgets for the upcoming year, the committee painstakingly reviewed, reallocated, reduced specific line item amounts and submitted their budget as instructed. The committee was not responsible for making wage adjustments/recommendations of salaried employees.

c. Grant Opportunities: Approval of the State Unit on Aging Grant regarding COVID-19

expenditures in preparation of reopening of the senior center was a welcomed notice. Currently we have purchased hands-free soap dispensers, hands-free faucets, sanitizing supplies, masks, signage relating to the pandemic thus far. Our budget is \$2,500.00.

d. Internet installation: Comcast has installed internet service to the senior center.

e. Kitchen upgrade: This item was discussed at previous meetings and was reviewed again at this meeting. M. Fishbone suggested we contact a carpenter and get an estimate of cost associated with the possible replacement of kitchen cabinets as a starting point for future conversations.

**New Business/Other:**

F. Minor indicated that she was contacted by United Way regarding participation in the Farm to Family Food Program. There research indicated that a need exists in Preston and wondered if we would consider offering services to the elderly housing population. I contacted Carol Onderdonk, Executive Director of Lincoln Park, discussed the proposal and agreed to move forward with the project. The agreement will include pick-up and distribution on the same day as we do not have adequate storage space to ensure food safety for the perishable food items. If interest warrants, the program will continue to be offered.

We have been contacted by a recently retired physician who moved into the Preston area. I will be looking to include information on various health concerns and medical issues in upcoming Bits & Pieces newsletter authored by this individual. We will be presented a resume' to review regarding his expertise at the next senior affairs committee meeting. Upon reopening the senior center, the option of guest speakers and panel discussions will be investigated. Research will be conducted regarding grants, funding opportunities for facility upgrades/construction.

**Public Comment:** No public input.

M. Fishbone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 p.m. Motion seconded by F. Minor. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted by,

Frances Minor