

SALINE AREA SENIOR COUNCIL, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes via Zoom
Monday, March 8, 2021

The Saline Area Senior Council Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Lucy Crossey at 9:07am

Roll Call: President, Lucy Crossey; Vice President, Kathy Lawless; Secretary, Cora Rogers; Treasurer, Bill Nicholls, Member-at-Large, Judy Slater, Director, Nancy Cowan; Mayor, Brian Marl; Community Ed. Director, Brian Puffer

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion made to approve as amended, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Nicholls

Income through February was \$3,407; down \$6,391 from January primarily due to floor repair cost of \$11,990. With four months remaining and most center activity suspended, income should remain in this area, unless something significant occurs.

The auditors working on tax return for last fiscal year.

The report was approved as presented.

Additional Comments: Discussion of vaccine availability. Brian Marl shared that city is talking to health department to check on availability, the same as SASC and SAS are. Individuals are encouraged to seek the vaccine from local sources such as the health department and pharmacies.

Director's Report: Nancy Cowan

SASC is still operating virtually except for pickleball (at Liberty), outdoor walking yoga, and Meals on Wheels (MOW). MOW numbers were at 21 when the pandemic began, now at 32 or so. Kathy Adamson is doing a tremendous job administering the program in conjunction with EHM. The drivers routes have been modified to accommodate the higher client load. Saline Social Services is still packing additional groceries for MOW individuals on Thursdays which our drivers' deliver.

The flooring project is buttoned up and looks good. The divider project will begin in April or May once AARP tax preparation wraps up (currently taking place on Mondays). Taxes are dropped off for preparers and returned the following week. There were limited appointments this year, but we were glad we could offer an option to those in need. H & R Block gave Senior rates and a local accountant offered service at a reduced rate as well.

SAS is planning to go back 4 days a week for those in the elementary age group. The state is still in stage 4 of the reopening plan. The state needs to be well in to stage 5 or 6 for senior centers to consider re-opening safely. We hope that will begin to occur late this spring.

The Friendly Phone Call Program (FPCP) has been developed to connect our members, Saline Area Social Services' clients, and seniors at Saline High School. Twelve High School students and some honor students have shown interest. Megan has done a great job organizing the program and Nancy is assisting in training the volunteers with Megan. SASC staff personally called 100 members to see what their interest in participating may be, and it was advertised in

SASC weekly emails. We hope this will create some ties in the community between the two generations and assist with the social isolation some older adults may be feeling.

Nancy discussed the FY 2021-22 budget development; the first draft will be presented in April at the Board Meeting. Nancy sought any thoughts or input the Board may have. The Pickleball Program was highlighted, specifically the outdoor facility. We play inside at Liberty most of the year but outdoor in the summer months. The courts outdoors at Liberty and are not in good condition – many cracks in the pavement and fading paint. Players have requested the repair of the courts for a few years and more so, a dedicated / new pickleball facility like those that currently exist in Ann Arbor and surrounding areas. This project could be quite costly depending on scope. Nancy provided a range of provided by a contractor ranging in cost from \$1,500 for crack filling on the playing surface to \$30,000+ dollars for new courts, not including new pavement, which is needed and will greatly add to the cost of the project. Nancy made the Board aware of the options and discussed funding that could be utilized and planned for in the future – AARP Grant, SASC funds, fundraising, partnerships with schools, and corporate support. Staff will be doing a survey of SASC pickleball players to gather some insights on their views and further costs. Pickleball has about 30-35 dedicated players. Bill and Lucy had insights into the potential scope of the project and gathering more data, which will take place. Lucy requested Paul Backlas be at a future meeting to give his thoughts as the lead volunteer for the program. More information will be available next month.

Suggestion Box: Not available during shutdown.

Board Comments:

Lucy asked about a memorial for Michelle Hall; none has been scheduled yet by her family. Donations have been received for a plaque to honor Michelle on the Legacy Wall in SASC though.

Brian Puffer gave an updated on elementary schools going back more days in the coming weeks. The School Board has engaged a firm to assist in the search and hiring of the new school superintendent upon Scot Graden's retirement. The goal is to have the position filled by this summer.

Community Ed is getting back to normal, running sports on weekends – going in the right direction.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Submitted by Secretary, Cora Rogers