

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 24, 2024

Present: Elaine Cote, Roselani Ferguson, Janet Colonghi

Absent: Pamela Wilcox-Dapkus, Gail Landry

Staff Present: Sarah Elliott-Caratasios, Senior Services Administrator

1. Chairwomen Cote called the meeting to order at 11:10 am. in the Multi-purpose room of the Senior Center.

2. Minutes were not available at this time and would be reviewed later.

3. Old Business:

3a. Habitat for Humanity: As of this meeting Sarah Elliott-Caratasios has not been able to meet with them. Many seniors are in need of assistance around their homes. It may be helping with small chores or minor repairs. Sarah mentioned it would be great to get the youth involved with helping neighbors and it would benefit both the seniors and youth. Many youths in town are in need of Community Service Hours and this would be a great experience for them.

3b. Bus: The new 2023 bus has been repaired and is now being used. There is a large demand for rides and when our van is not available we sometimes we have to contact "DIAL A RIDE. The feedback of this program is very poor.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

4.a Cameras: 7 new cameras were installed outside and downstairs inside. The funds left over from the kitchen renovation was used for the cameras.

4.b Food Pantry box: The location for the Food Pantry box is now located in front of the Senior Center Building on Waverly Ave. Some days it is practically empty. We feel that it is not only Portland residents taking items and it was suggested that we add a sign to the box "PORTLAND RESIDENTS ONLY."

4.c Wellness Fair: It was a very successful fair. A good showing of vendors set up on both levels of the senior center. They had resources that would help seniors to get informed of the services that they provide.

4.d Grant: We received the ARPA grant for a new Chrysler Pacifica minivan. It has been ordered and it will help with the number of seniors that are in need of transportation.

4.e Renters Rebate: Applications will continue to be done through the assessor's office in the town hall.

4.f Senior Center Vs Food Bank: A lot of discussion on the fact that many people believe we are one unit. They think that they are sending a donation to the senior center, but it is going to the food bank. There needs to be clarification

5. Public Comment: None

6. Adjourn Meeting: meeting was adjourned at 11:50am

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Cote, substitute secretary