

SALINE AREA SENIOR COUNCIL, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 19, 2022

The Saline Area Senior Council Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Lucy Crossey at 9:02 AM.

Roll Call: President, Lucy Crossey; VP, Kathy Lawless; Treasurer, Bill Nicholls; Secretary, Cora Rogers; Member-at-Large, Sue Kelch; Brian Puffer; Mayor, Brian Marl and Director, Nancy Cowan.

Excused: Brian Puffer, Community Ed Director

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved.

Treasurer's Report: We are up about \$32,000 currently due to membership fees coming in and 50/50 raffle. This will go down per usual with the expenses that come but we are getting better each year and either break-even or slightly positive at the end of the year. We have made a lot of good progress in past five years.

Other liabilities on the report (a question from last time) are the funds that run through the household credit account and the flow of funds in and out of RecDesk.

Our strong fund balance was discussed and can be used in the near future for additional items with the bond addition, etc.

Report approved as presented.

Director's Report: SASC is busy, 2023 Memberships are going strong, with 303 registered already. The 50/50 Raffle has taken in \$4,400 to this point which means \$2,200 will go to the winner. The drawing will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 12pm.

The Holiday Party / Lunch takes place Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 11:30am. There are 55 members registered, the highest attendance in at least the last 6 years. The SASC recorder students are playing holiday tunes at the event.

The SASC New Year's Eve Party will take place on Thursday, December 29, from 4-8pm. There are 44 members registered at this point, last year there were 18, a good increase. The party is enhanced this year with a big band and catered meal from Olive Garden.

SASC did not receive the Helen McCalla grant for a Ford Transit Vehicle, which Nancy wrote this past fall. A grant was also written through CARES for \$15,000 to put towards a vehicle, in October, waiting for a response at this point. The travel program / bus is a topic that will need some discussion at the Board level in the coming months to decide how SASC should progress in that area and regarding the current SASC bus. Some discussion took place regarding the trips SASC runs and trips in the area, Pittsfield and Carol's VIP. The cost and size of charter buses was also discussed, both have increased during the pandemic. Currently SASC does not recover all the costs involved with the small trips SASC runs. Nancy will provide some data and specifics on past SASC Trips for the Board and discussion at the January meeting.

The Bond was discussed. Saline Area Schools (SAS) is getting ready for Phase 1, which SASC is not in, but the Transportation Department is. They are currently seeking land for the department. With the re-allocation of that space, SASC will be impacted as it is right next door, so there may be some preliminary planning that takes place regarding our area or the outside grounds in Phase 1. Nancy has also made SAS and the Committee aware of the SPARK Grants which will be available for the outdoor spaces (including pickleball, etc.) next year through the DNR / State of Michigan. More updates will be forthcoming.

Public / Board comments: Scholarships at SASC were talked about. Currently there are about 5 to 8 members on scholarships. They are given to those in need and people apply for them on a brief application. SASC awards

scholarships by utilizing the federal poverty guidelines and those that are 180% below the poverty level are awarded a scholarship if they apply. If staff knows of individuals in need, they encourage them to apply as well. Typically, a scholarship consists of a membership for the year and 3 to 4 fee-based programs throughout the year.

New members were talked about, i.e. where they are coming from. That is not a question that is tracked formally but it varies. Some are those that have just retired and have more free time to now participate, others are just learning about SASC even though they have lived in the community for years, and others are from neighboring communities as SASC has a broader program than Ann Arbor or Pittsfield at this point. The categories and possible discounts were also touched on, for those over 100 or in the military. Further discussion to take place in the future.

The continual presence of SASC out and about in the community was briefly touched on and is something that staff is always working on / towards. The Board Members are a part of that as well and encouraged to help spread the word about SASC. The name "Senior Center" can be positive and negative for some. That will be an area to explore more at SASC moves forward and new spaces are created in the coming years.

Sue Kelch talked about encouraging the writer's group to help recognize milestone birthdays as well.

Brian Marl gave some updates including: he is seeking individuals to serve on various boards and commissions though the City of Saline, the State of the City Address will be given on January 9, and there will potentially be a new City of Saline Representative on the SASC Board to replace him as he is seeking some daytime employment / opportunities that will alter his availability. More information on that will be forthcoming. Brian will still be involved at SASC calling Bingo, attending some events, and helping present the annual Mayor's Conference, if this change does occur. Board Members echoed their support and thanks to Brian for his service.

The next meeting will be on Monday, January 23, as January 16 is MLK Jr. Day and SASC will be closed.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:44 AM.