

Minutes
AARP Blacksburg Chapter
October 3, 2017
Blacksburg Community Center

Present: Terry Wildman, Tamara Hodsden, Lisa Moose, Don Creamer, Ben Crawford, Thais Beams, Pat Ballard, Peter Magolda, Carolyn Rude, Joy Herbert, Jim Montgomery, June Schmidt, Pat Hyer, guest Tom Sellinger (AARP Community Ambassador)

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Wildman at 10:04 a.m.

Announcement: Joy Herbert announced that Virginia Tech students are available to assist with electronic devices (computers, phones, tablets), 2:30-4:00 p.m. on Fridays at Blacksburg Community Center during the academic year. She also offered to arrange private tours for eligible groups (AARP and others). Their buses hold 23 people each. The destination could be one already provided to the public, or another destination of the group's choosing. The trip would be a Parks and Recreation program for group members, subject to their standard policies with fees payable to Parks and Recreation.

Ben Crawford introduced Tom Sellinger visiting from SW Roanoke chapter.

Approval of September Board Minutes: Minutes of the September 5, 2017 meeting were approved as corrected.

Agenda: The agenda was approved.

Officer Reports/Announcements:

Treasurer's report: Pat Ballard reported that there have been few transactions this month, so little change to our financial picture. Don Creamer noted that we will soon be printing the new chapter brochure. We will need to select recipients for the eight annual donations totaling \$2600, usually \$400 or \$300. Typically we have supported the Community Foundation and Blacksburg and Christiansburg Recreation Centers annually. Other recipients include Micah's Backpack, Agency on Aging, VT Center for Gerontology, Soup for Seniors, and others. Pat Ballard, Ben Crawford, and Sally Anna Stapleton will select. Board members invited to nominate charities for consideration.

No further officer reports.

Old and New Business:

Nominating Committee Report: Pat Hyer reported on nominations for board positions and officers for 2018. Ben Crawford moved and Jim Montgomery seconded a motion to accept the report and present it to the October membership meeting.

Winery Fund Raiser: Don Creamer reminded the Board of plans for a social at Whitebarrel Winery on Thursday, Oct. 26, 4:30-7:00. The cost is \$25 for a tasting (or one glass of wine) and heavy hors d'oeuvres. We will split the proceeds with the Winery. The event has been posted on the chapter webpage. Registration will be handled through Whitebarrel website. The event was listed in the LLI catalog.

Holiday dinner: Thais Beams will consult with Jerome, Warm Hearth chef, this month about the proposed menu. Carolyn Rude will prepare the program.

Oct 13 evening, Moss Arts Center: We volunteered to have a table at this event associated with the Community Foundation. Don Creamer will try to recruit someone to host the table with him. Lisa Moose may be willing.

Driver safety course: AARP driver safety courses will be taught at Christiansburg Recreation Center, according to their publication. Participation in this course yields an insurance discount. Giles County Senior Center will also be hosting driver training on Oct. 26-27.

Reports:

AARP Virginia Liaison: Ben Crawford reported on efforts to set up a meeting with Morgan Griffith at his Christiansburg office during the week of October 16.

Awards: Tamara Hodsdon is the new chair. She distributed several handouts describing available awards, their timing and criteria. Nominations for the Chapter Service Award and Community Spirit Award are due by Oct 31 to the committee, which will be made up of Tamara, Don Creamer, Ben Crawford, and Sally Anna Stapleton. Chapter awards will be presented at Dec. 5 holiday luncheon. State-level awards were also reviewed. Nominations for all awards should be sent to Tamara as soon as possible. Ben also mentioned the local Leading Lights Award, which he received last year.

Caring Committee: Violet is unable to continue with this responsibility. Decided to sunset this committee and handle cards and condolences as the occasion arises.

Community Service: Sally Anna Stapleton reported through Terry Wildman that 680 pounds of food, at an estimated value of more than \$1,000, was collected on October 1 by members. The donated food was delivered to the Interfaith Food Pantry in Blacksburg and MCEAP in Christiansburg.

Downtown Blacksburg Inc: No report

Blacksburg Community Center: See announcements above from Joy Herbert.

Finance Committee: No report at this time.

Health Fair: No report.

Hospitality: Nothing further.

Legislation: Ben reviewed Val Coluni's written report. Val urged more attention to the reports and recommendations of GO VIRGINIA which studied economic development needs in Virginia. Members were reminded of the Equifax data breach and urged to check if personal data has been hacked. If data were breached, members are strongly urged to take action, including setting a freeze on your account so that new credit requests cannot be confirmed without your permission. There is also a place on social security.gov where you can set up a second method to identify you online to protect against fraudulent efforts to access your information: <https://blog.ssa.gov/protecting-your-social-security/>

LLI Partnership: Fall registrations are going well.

Membership: Ryan Martin submitted a report by email. No new members during the last month.

Newsletter: Carolyn Rude is preparing the next newsletter and is taking suggestions for the issue.

Community Foundation: The workshop on Aging in Place offered by the Taskforce through the Lifelong Learning Institute filled immediately and now has a substantial waitlist. The Taskforce will offer the program again in the spring.

Program: October program will focus on Aging in Place presentation. In November, Kevin Foust will talk about the Egyptian Air hijacking in which he played an investigative role.

TimeBank: Lisa Moose met with Ellen Stewart at the TimeBank; Lisa will take over Val Coluni's role serving as a liaison to AARP and to seniors more generally. Ellen is looking for ways to inform our demographic about TimeBank opportunities and encourage their participation. Whatever visibility we can give the TimeBank on websites or in the newsletter is appreciated. Pat reported that the LLI event focused on the TimeBank has 11 enrolled. AARP will announce this special event to the membership; the public is welcome to attend without registration through LLI.

VTRA: Fall VTRA luncheon is this week. VTRA also assisted retirees with parking permit renewal this fall.

Website: Don Creamer will post request for award nominations.

Minutes were prepared by Pat Hyer and submitted for review on October 3, 2017.