

Minutes
AARP Blacksburg Chapter
May 2, 2017
Blacksburg Community Center

Present: Terry Wildman, Lisa Moose, Don Creamer, Ben Crawford, Wendy Baldwin, Thais Beams, Sally Anna Stapleton, Val Coluni, Pat Ballard, Violet Drake, Peter Magolda, Carolyn Rude, Ryan Martin, Jim Montgomery, Jennie Reilly

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Wildman at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of April Board Minutes: Minutes of the April 4, 2007 meeting were approved with a minor correction.

Agenda: Don requested several additional items for the agenda

Officer Reports/Announcements:

Treasurer's report: Pat Ballard reported that everything is up to date. The LLI account has a balance of \$5,625; most funds in the account are from the Whitebarrel Winery event and from the Road Scholar trip to Cuba. The two LLI special events generated enough revenue to cover the expenses; all expenses have now been reimbursed.

No further officer reports.

Old and New Business:

Winery Fund Raiser: Don Creamer recently visited the Beliveau Winery, however he was unable to talk to the owners since they were engaged elsewhere. The employee he spoke to said that they generally charge \$15 for hors d'oeuvres and glass of wine. Conceivably we could charge \$25 and keep the excess. Since they do not do turn-key fundraisers, such as we had at the Whitebarrel Winery, an event at Beliveau may entail additional work on our part, including collection of fees. Since there is not an immediate need for LLI funds, we could host the event to support AARP charitable giving to other partner organizations and invite them to participate with us. The Whitebarrel Winery appears to offer greater convenience in terms of location and planning. Don and Terry will pursue, probably for the fall.

Blacksburg High School property: Don summarized recent conversations sparked by an article in the *Roanoke Times* on the sale of high school property to Shelor and David Hagan; the article mentioned that senior housing may be part of a proposed project. Don contacted the chair of board of supervisors at John Muffo's suggestion and was given David Hagan's email. Hagan responded that he is interested in hearing from us, but it is too early in the process; they will have to seek zoning changes before any specific elements of the project can be finalized.

A subsequent article in the *Roanoke Times* described Jeannie Stosser's plans for the Blacksburg Middle School property, which may also include some senior housing and condos. She is in preliminary conversation with various Town Council members, preparing for a possible presentation at a June Council meeting. Pat expressed interest in exploring any and all of these options. If projects appear viable and well planned, AARP and the Aging in Place task force might lend support for their development during the Council review process and/or use information already gathered to shape the housing options. Don prefers the term and concept of lifespan friendly housing, which may appeal to more people. Pat mentioned that some of these recent discussions use the phrase "age-designated" housing.

Ryan Martin said that he already talked to Hagan about the high school property in relation to future expansion of the Y; he hopes to meet with Stosser soon. He cautiously volunteered to share our interest if he is able to meet with Stosser. He also thought we might float the possibility of dedicating some retail space in the Middle School project to LLI, perhaps facilitating town approval and making a coherent package with senior housing. Ben suggested contacting Blacksburg Housing and Community Development Board for information that may be useful.

Board Member Resignation and Replacement: Ray Van Dyke has asked to resign since his other commitments have precluded his attendance. Pat suggested that we recruit someone to fill out Ray's term who might work with Health Fair. Don suggested that Lisa Moose could be nominated—she is already engaged with board activity. Ben moved that we accept Ray's resignation and thank him for his service. Pat seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Don made a motion to appoint Lisa Moose to fill the remainder of the vacant term (class of 2018); the motion was seconded by Ben. The motion was approved to appoint Lisa to the vacant position.

Account with *Roanoke Times*: Lisa Moose established an account with the RT to post announcements on their calendar. Documentation of the account and password was shared with the Treasurer for safekeeping.

Salem Red Sox ball game at Lewis Gale Field: AARP Virginia is hosting a free pre-game event for members on June 6 beginning at 6:05 -- free hot dogs and hamburgers. Don will put a notice on the website; Carolyn will include in the newsletter.

The Crossings: A representative of The Crossing facility contacted Don and requested that we consider partnering with them. Don and Lisa took a tour and met with a representative. The partnership opportunities seem limited, and Don did not see an obvious shared agenda. And they have no community meeting space, which would make it difficult to use the facility for joint events. He recommends that we take no action at this time.

Bo Ballenger from AARP requested our participation in a webex conference last week. Don shared comments about how we organized the Bill Thomas event with the associate state directors.

June 15 Picnic, 5:00-8:00 p.m.: Terry has not confirmed musicians yet. Pat Ballard suggested someone who works with tax aide program. Due South BBQ will cater; the hospitality committee will order. Set up at least one hour ahead of time. Pat to create a Qualtrix survey for RSVP and collecting information about what members will bring. May newsletter to include some details modeled after last year.

Newsletter: Terry needs to write his piece. Pat Ballard to provide data on Tax Aide program. Lisa and Wendy Baldwin need to provide their profiles.

Reports:

AARP Virginia Liaison: Ben Crawford reported that there have been some staff changes. David DeBiasi has been appointed Associate State Director – Advocacy for AARP Virginia. Ben will participate in a meeting related to federal advocacy on the Hill. He highlighted the dependence of many Virginia seniors on social security.

Awards: no report.

Caring Committee: Violet Drake reported on several members and urged all of us to check on our neighbors.

Community Service: Sally Anna Stapleton reported on the upcoming “Movies for Grownups” at Grandin Theater: American Masters - James Beard: America's First Foodie, May 11 at 2:00. Sign up in advance if planning to attend by calling 1-844-418-2281.

Pat Ballard reported that well over 1,000 clients were served during Tax Aide Program.

Downtown Blacksburg Inc: Steppin’ Out reservation confirmed. Public restrooms will get some attention in the future; Wendy has not been available to work on this. Set-aside seating at Henderson Lawn events was not really used; she will not push for it this year.

Health Fair: Looking at the third week in September; checking with VCOM for availability of students who are essential to the fair. Will need a lot more help for the 2018 fair -- committee members, someone to handle food. Sandy Birch will train; she had members from her church assist. Jennie will prepare a brief announcement for the newsletter asking for volunteers. Wendy urged specification on when certain responsibilities might occur so that volunteers could accomplish tasks based on their availability.

Hospitality: Nothing further.

Legislation: Val Coluni already submitted report; urged all to read the report. One community took action against a candidate for the Virginia governorship who used divisive rhetoric against immigrants. Local citizens made calls to restaurants where the candidate was to appear and promised to boycott if they hosted his rally. Several venues cancelled his appearance as a result.

We should all be deeply concerned about the effects of gerrymandering. *Washington Post* article highlighted how these partisan practices have weakened our democracy.

LLI Partnership: no report.

Membership: Ryan Martin distributed membership report. Drop names off newsletter list if last paid in 2015; leave 2016 non-renewed members. Bulk mail rules may preclude putting a special reminder label on those who have not renewed; also need to watch minimum number to qualify for bulk mail. Terry to modify Don's non-renewal letter; Ryan to send names and addresses so Terry can send the letters. Pat to send Wanda's welcome letter with Pat's proposed changes to Terry and Ryan.

Community Foundation and GiveBigNRV 2017: 100+ organizations participated this year, raising \$220,000. About the same total as last year, but more contributions at smaller average donation. Ryan shared that the one-day fundraising event works well for the Y.

Program: Wendy Baldwin will speak on brain health in May.

TimeBank: Val Coluni reported that 63 members have now registered. Students in a business school organization have conducted an analysis and made recommendations for the organization. Ellen expressed interest in enrolling more members from AARP, however web-based platform is a deterrent. They are prepared to identify a buddy for such members.

Website: Don reported that the updated website is complete and functioning. He is planning to post photos of Board of Directors officers.

Minutes were prepared by Pat Hyer and submitted for review on May 2, 2017.