

## Minutes/Notes

October 3, 2023

Blacksburg Recreation Center

**Attendees:** Don Creamer, Terry Wildman, Leslie Pendleton, Jerry Niles, Pat Ballard, Jamie McReynolds, Ben Crawford, Pam Knox, Fred Piercy, John Burton, Pat Hipkins, Wendy Baldwin, Nola Elliot, Wilma Dotson, and Britton Gildersleeve.

**President Leslie Pendleton** called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

**The minutes:** The September 2023 board meeting minutes were considered and approved.

### **Old Business:**

*Finances:* Pat Ballard reported that we have around \$10,000 on hand (\$730 designated for Food Alliance), and \$3450 in savings for charitable giving. Pat also reported receiving the AARP/NRTA (National Retired Teachers Association) Community Service Award Nomination following Leslie's nomination in February 2023. After a lengthy delay and Leslie's follow-up with Brian Jacks, Pat finally received a package with an acknowledgment and gifts from AARP.

*Leadership:* Don Creamer and Jerry Niles reported on a leadership development luncheon event held on 9/11 to inform chapter members about chapter leadership opportunities and activities. Eight guests participated in the discussion and acknowledged its usefulness. Four new chapter members (Britton Gildersleeve, Jackie Jones, Deborah Martin, and Jamie McReynolds) have agreed to serve on the Blacksburg AARP Board in the coming year.

*512 Food Pantry:* Leslie and others reported on the Kroger storefront food collection event during September's Hunger Action Month. A case was made for food vs money in at least some cases. (Interesting factoid: around 50% of those eligible for SNAP benefits do not apply despite low food security). Leslie asked Board members to share SNAP flyers and chip clips with their churches, food banks, and non-profit organizations.

*MCCS Community Service:* Leslie discussed possible dates to volunteer at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. She will circulate a sign-up list.

*Pathways to Successful Aging:* Leslie, Pam, Wilma, and Jamie reported on the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with 14 non-profit partners with a role in successful aging. The discussion was centered on what the groups were doing, what they planned to do, and where there were still perceived needs. To guide their efforts, they expanded the definition of "Wellness" from 3 to 8 dimensions based on

the Yale Wellness Model. A decision was made to meet quarterly to exchange ideas, detect overlap, address unmet needs, and eliminate “false positives” (apparent needs which actually are not needed because the service is already provided).

### **New Business:**

*Leadership Committee:* Jerry Niles reported on the proposed slate of Board Members and Officers for 2024.

Board Members: Britton Gildersleeve, Jackie Jones, Deborah Martin, and Jamie McReynolds.

Officers: Secretary – John Burton

Treasurer- Pat Ballard

VP- Open (Pat Ballard is considering it)

Co-President(s) – Don Creamer and Jerry Niles

The slate was approved without any changes after it was proposed, seconded, and voted on. There were no revisions made to the slate.

*Virginia Tech Retirees Association (VTRA):* Jerry will attend the VTRA October luncheon and provide an update on Chapter activities. He asked Wilma Dotson to staff a table with AARP information.

Jerry made a case for supporting VTRA financially at \$250/year on the notion that it is both a good thing to do and in our best interest since they are a group of potential Chapter members. It was moved, seconded, and passed. (Ben Crawford abstained due to a conflict of interest.)

*YMCA Pulaski (J. David Adkins, CEO).* A request for Tax-Aide Services was tabled to allow Pat Ballard to follow up.

*Joint Interest Group:* A proposed partnership between The Common Ingredient (TCI)-NRV and Blacksburg AARP has been put forth by Anne Deaton. The group would focus on “organizing community forums/activities that address food insecurity including short-term needs and a wide range of underlying/interacting causes. The group would be particularly focused on long-term solutions that would impact public policy.” Leslie invited Anne to attend the Board meeting to discuss her proposal; the discussion was tabled until Anne could attend a future Board meeting.

*Holiday Luncheon:* at Warm Hearth. Terry will work with Warm Hearth to finalize arrangements. It was agreed that background music (vs. singers) is preferred. After discussing a number of possible keynote speakers, a decision was made to contact Paul Siegel.

*Intergenerational field trip:* Head Start students and Showalter Center residents will meet at the Wonder Universe Children's Museum on 11 October, 9:30-11:00 AM. There were no Board members available to participate or interested in participation.

**Committee Reports:**

*Newsletter.* Pam and Fred intend to publish the next newsletter by the end of October.

*Programs.* The October program will be an update by Kim Thurlow on ARPA funds (some \$14.1 million). (Since Leslie will be out of town, Wendy agreed to introduce Kim.) The November program will feature Chris Sokol on backyard birding. The Blacksburg Chief of Police will speak about senior safety at the January program The February program will have a speaker on solar energy.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.