

Notes of Governing Council Meeting

November 16, 2020

Present: Mike Conner, Ramona Crocker, Janet Cruz, Karen McCune, Carol Moynes, Vickie Sander and Barbara Bernstein

Recognition:

The members of the Aging with Grace planning team were recognized for their leadership in coordinating the recent series of lectures and discussions.

Resource Development:

Mike reported that the proposed budget for 2021 is undergoing final revisions and will be ready for discussion and approval at a special Governing Council meeting to be held via Zoom on Monday, November 23, at 10:00. At that time he will explain how a raffle might be held to secure additional funding for the Village.

The Annual Appeal letters have been sent and donations will soon be arriving at the office. An acknowledgement of donations will be sent by Carol with more personal thank you note to donors written by Rae Coleman. Kathy Brown has ordered additional note cards that can be used for this purpose.

Mike will now be responsible for reviewing the membership assistance applications. He will be taking over from Larry Brown who has been doing this. Until further notice, no new applications will be considered.

Outreach/Publicity:

Ramona shared with the council a short overview of Aging with Grace which by all accounts was a successful endeavor. Kathe Fradkin will attend the December 7th meeting of the Governing Council to give a more complete report. Plans are currently being discussed as to how best to reach out to the nearly 40% of the attendees who are not currently associated with Viva Village.

The Outreach team plans to send a letter to the new mayor elect of Beaverton, Lacey Beaty, congratulating her and inviting her to attend a future Governing Council meeting.

Volunteers:

Karen proposed that a virtual Village 101 be organized to target the people who attended Aging with Grace and who may be interested in learning more about the Village and how they might get involved either as members or volunteers. All agreed this was a good idea and Ramona who is now Village 101 coordinator will proceed with planning it.

Barbara shared the results of the Annual Volunteer Survey the full version of which will be made available to Governing Council members via attachment. From the opinions expressed by the 58 respondents it would seem volunteers are satisfied with their current level of engagement but are looking forward to the time when we can resume full service and in-person events.

The Volunteer Newsletter will be sent out on November 16th.

Roger Jensen, a Village volunteer, has developed a new program for reporting volunteer hours. It is currently being tested with Volunteer Team members. Although the new approach provides more information and is apparently easy to use for tech savvy individuals it is important to remember that most volunteers want things to be simple.

Membership:

Vickie reported that there are five or six prospective members “in the pipeline” although most want to wait until the Village is able to offer more in-person services and events. She expressed interest in renewing the Village 101’s as this is a good way of introducing the village to others. The membership hiatus policy is still under review.

Carol asked if the Governing Council should resume making 360 calls to first year members as part of the membership renewal process. Following some discussion it was decided that these would be helpful so she will begin making the assignments. The annual calls to other members will be made on an as needed basis.

Kathe Fradkin will be Viva Village’s new representative on the Villages NW Membership Affinity Team taking the place of Kathy Brown and Rae Coleman who have served in that capacity till now. At their next meeting she will explore whether Viva Village’s renewal drop off rate (from 90% to 68%) is typical of what other villages are seeing..

Data Management and Technology:

Barbara Walker is working with the office staff to simplify the way RSVPs to virtual events are handled. For recurring events, the same link and password are used each time. In addition, a list of the people who attend such events is being created and these members and volunteers will automatically receive a reminder of the event without having to RSVP each time.

Events:

Richard Chew has agreed to offer a second exercise class focusing on total body fitness. This will be an adaptation of a more rigorous course he gave at Elsie Stuhr prior to the pandemic. Janet will coordinate possible days and times for this with the expectation that classes will begin twice monthly in January.

Barbara Bernstein will be leading a daily discussion during the week of December 7th entitled “Talking About Time”. This is a trial offering as it is a unique concept and format for the Village but surely one worth pursuing. Amber Bok is helping with this effort.

Poinsettias and the Village holiday card will be distributed to members and volunteers during the first part of December. Nancy McNary has been working with Smith Farms in Aurora for the purchase of the poinsettias which will cost \$2.00 each. The delivery of the gift will be coordinated as it was for the good neighbor bags.

On December 18th at 4:00 there will be a virtual holiday celebration for Village members and volunteers. Although plans will be finalized at the events team meeting in December, the festive occasion will feature games, contests, music and “table” conversations.

Leadership Team:

Following some discussion it was decided that there will be no expansion to services at this time due to the recent surge in corona virus cases in Washington County. The status of services will continue to be reviewed and changes will be made in accordance with guidelines and restrictions established by the Oregon Health Authority. There may be a need to recruit more drivers as the requests for transportation services at times exceed the availability of volunteers. The Volunteer Team will discuss this at their next meeting and also evaluate whether the cancellation of services has been due to lack of drivers or to the member being able to make other arrangements. Barbara asked if it would be possible to modify the requirements for becoming a driver, but there was concern that this may affect insurance and liability.

Communication:

There was consensus on needing to limit the number of community events that are promoted in the Viva Village updates. It was decided that Kathy Brown would have discretion on the exact number to be included but that priority should be given to those events that are offered by other villages in Villages NW, by our partner organizations such as DAVS (Disability, Aging and Veteran Services), the library, BCOA (Beaverton Committee on Aging), etc. and on occasion by AARP.