 September 10, 2018

The following minutes were taken at a special meeting with the Council On Aging St Tammany, COAST, the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on August 17, 2018 at the Town Hall in Pearl River, Louisiana.

Mayor McQueen called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Present for speaking is Ms. Julie Agan, the Executive Director of COAST.

Attendance includes Mayor McQueen, Alderman Walsh, Phillips, Cutrer, Town Clerk, and several residents.

Mayor McQueen opens with discussion of a meeting COAST held with Recreation District 7. He asks for clarity about the subject and the decisions at this meeting. Ms. Agan says the meeting was held to determine whether buses parking at our Community/Senior Center or at Recreation District 7 would be the best choice for COAST and their fleet of buses.

COAST has made some changes. Large insurance premium increases have made it necessary for them to make serious decisions about what programs and areas they will have to cut. These cuts will not affect the current year, which ends in June 2019.

COAST has hired Tina Adelfio to be the Pearl River COAST coordinator for our Community Center. Three or four were interviewed; their first choice could not commit because COAST cannot guarantee long term employment.

Our center will re-open, scheduled for September 10th, 2018. After 30 days, there will be an evaluation on how the attendance is going in order to determine whether we will be able to stay in operation due to the attendance number minimum requirement of 20. We are scheduling an early registration day for August 27th, 2018 because many on the list of interested seniors (compiled by several residents) are not currently members of COAST.

Programs to be scheduled are one of the areas needing the most local input. Many of the efforts by COAST in the past have not been well received, well attended, or well liked. Ms. Julie Agan has budgeted $15.00 per month for recreational activities; they are looking for us to direct how best to spend this.

Cost for each meal to be served $20.17 for the salary, fringe, travel, supplies, overhead, insurance, etc. (with indirect costs added, per meal goes up to more than $24.00) The hours for operation at our center will be from 8:30am to 2:30pm. (presented as originally told to us, but later email on 8/17/18 told us to correct the actual close time will be 1:30)

St Tammany Parish is cutting the transportation service contribution they make. This translates into less availability of COAST buses to bring people to the center, and more needed of local participation to provide transportation.

Ms. Agan stresses how our center is one area where cuts are likely to happen in July of 2019. The only way to prevent COAST’s necessary action to close their operations at our center is for us locally to keep up membership participation and keep members’ participation regular.

One question posed from the floor about COAST’s boundaries. Mr. David Cantrelle, independent insurance agent is offering a massive mail-out for opening day marketing efforts. Mr. Cantrelle cares about Pearl River because he has been working here as a reserve officer. His company will participate in activity coordination.

COAST’s activities coordinator is Sharon; Ms. Agan will provide contact information to connect Mr. Cantrelle and COAST’s employee.

September is “Active Aging” month; COAST’s campaign to motivate our senior population.

Alderman McGregor comes into the meeting.

Discussions continue about details and logistics for the flyers – handing out and mailing out.

Discussions continue about the first day and Town providing a special meal, Jambalaya.

Discussions continue about setting a meeting again before the first opening day on September 10th, 2018. Also discussed contacting seniors in person using the list our citizens have compiled.

Mayor McQueen asks if any more questions, comments, requests? None, so Mayor closes the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

AT 11:26 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 11TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2018

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Madeline B Campbell, Town Clerk Clarence D McQueen, Mayor