

Robert Russell Eastern Star Masonic Center of Colorado, Inc
House of Delegates Meeting
March 18, 2017

Call to order: Terry Hudson, Chairperson, at 10:09 am.

Welcome and Introductions:

Terry Hudson welcomed everyone, and thanked all for attending.

Present: Terry Hudson, Chairperson; Ashley Buss, Vice-Chairperson; Elizabeth Spangler, Treasurer; Lesle Thomas Secretary; Karen Karns; Herb Carr; Carrie Andrea; Gary Malara; Michael Moore; Larry Lillo, Executive Director; Pati Sawyer-Boex, Deb Kirsten and Teresa Hudson, recording secretary.

Absent:

Delegates: Phyllis Everitt, Colorado #2; Janet Malara, Collins #26; Steven Everitt, Corinthian #35; C.J. Robinson, Minehaha #48; Doris Schrup, Excelsior #66; Nancy Frieburg, Unity #97 & Hope #122; Kathy Easterday, South Gate #104; Judy Morrison, Areme #124 & Mt Zion #133; Malissa Finell, Dawn #125; Betty Leck, Loyalty #145; Jan Blankenship, Metro #157; James Earhart, Resident/Guest

Invocation: Herb Carr

Approval of Agenda: Approved as written

Approval of the January 21, 2017 House of Delegates minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as printed by Carrie Andrea, seconded by Phyllis Everitt, motion passed.

Ridgeline Management Report: Larry Lillo, Executive Director, Deb Kirsten and Pati Sawyer-Boex

Deb Kirsten reported that we are still recouping from our winter losses of so many residents. We have several openings in Assisted Living. Memory Care is 100% full. We have one (1) opening in the Village, and they are working through the wait list and hope to have it filled soon. There are AL move-ins scheduled this month.

Senior Day at the State Capitol was this month and it was well attended with a lot of questions about Colorado Access/Medicaid and the repeal and replacement of Obamacare. We hosted the streaming site for the event.

There will be a Long-Term Care Insurance presentation done here on Tues, March 28 from 11:30am to 1:00pm in the Picadilly.

Question: How many vacancies are there in each area?

Answer: Memory Care is full. There is one (1) opening in the Village and in Assisted Living there are about six (6) in the Robert Russell Building and about twelve (12) in the Mary Barry Building.

There can be a high number of residents who need to convert from private pay to Medicaid. We try to anticipate this and accommodate them all so they do not need to transfer to another facility. We have a cap of 28 Medicaid residents we can have. We currently have 22.

Question: When a private pay resident converts to Medicaid, do they move to the Robert Russell Building?

Answer: Yes

Question: Has Medicaid ever increased the payment they make for each resident?

Answer: No. We are anticipating a decrease in the Medicaid benefit this year.

Pati Sawyer-Boex presented her report.

The Masonic Appreciation Evening will be on Wednesday, April 12, 2017. Cocktails and appetizers start at 6:00p, with dinner beginning around 6:45 to 7:00p. Dinner is meatloaf, mashed potatoes and asparagus. Please get your RSVP to Pati ASAP.

We have resident here who is an OES member from New York. She did not have a dues card because her family had not notified NY Grand Chapter of her address change. We have made a lot of calls to New York Grand Chapter and got her dues card. In the process, we found out that she is a 77-year member and had never received her 75-year pin and certificate. NY Grand Chapter has sent them and Worthy Grand Matron Patricia will be presenting her with her 75-year pin and certificate at the dinner on April 12.

We will have a Bonfils Blood Drive here on April 14th. There are still openings, so call Pati to reserve your spot. All who donate will get a \$10 voucher to Piccolos Restaurant.

The Shred-A-Thon will be May 6, no electronics this year, paper only.

The Golf Tournament will be on Friday, June 16, 2017. We are still working on a title sponsor, Gentry and Serve-Pro are signed up as sponsors. We are in the process of getting items for the Silent Auction. Please let Pati know if you know of a business who would like to contribute a service or item to the auction.

The 5th Annual Comedy Night will be held on July 26, 2017. ESMRC and Prince Hall Masons are participating in the fundraiser, Grand Chapter has decided it is not a good enough money maker for them. Let Pati know how many tickets you would like to sell at your Chapters and Lodges.

The Masonic Family Picnic is to be held on August 19 from 11:00am to 2:00pm. The car show guys will be providing the trophies and will oversee the voting. We need groups to work the various booths, contact Pati if interested. Parking will again be at Big Lots with shuttles to the campus.

Elitch Gardens passes and/or day tickets can be purchased through a link on our website. We will make \$5.00 per pass and \$3.00 per day ticket purchased through this link.

The ESMRC is on Amazon Smile. A percentage of your purchase at Amazon will be donated to the ESMRC when you purchase through Amazon Smile and have selected ESMRC as your charity. We have not made enough to get a check from them yet, but it does take some time to build up.

Job's Daughters and DeMolay will be here on April 15 doing an Easter Egg Hunt for the residents.

Question: For the picnic, have you contacted Job's Daughters and DeMolay about participating?

Answer: Yes, we have asked DeMolay to come and work the dunk tank. For Job's Daughters, the new leadership starts in June so we need to contact them to have a commitment for August.

Items that are donated, such as Depends, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. are given to the Medicaid residents in need. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. is not covered by Medicaid. Private Pay residents do not receive these.

There is a \$1 Cart every other week which sells items like candy, toiletries and air freshener to all residents. We buy things from the dollar store to stock the cart.

Question: For the coloring books for the residents do you have adult coloring books and crayons?

Answer: We have adult coloring books and colored pencils.

Pati discussed volunteers and what is required of them.

Regular volunteers who are planning to be here on a consistent basis should be 16 or older. They must have a TB test, a drug test and pass a background check. There is no fee to be a volunteer, the center covers the cost of the testing and background check. If someone is volunteering once or twice a year, they do not need this testing done.

If you have a talent you would like to share with residents, please call Pati to volunteer.

We do not have any urgent needs now, but we could use some yarn.

Larry reminded everyone that there is always a lot of things going on here. Each resident has their own individual needs, wants and quirks.

Question: What is going on with the Helping Hands fund?

Answer: This month two residents for haircuts paid for by the fund.
The fund is set up so that there is a \$100.00 limit per person per calendar year. Three (3) people must sign off on funds being given to a resident.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Elizabeth Spangler

We are currently making mortgage payments of \$78,000.00 per month.
The investment funds are doing well and have shown an increase. We have a good bank balance. We need to have money available to keep up maintenance and repair, especially in the Robert Russell Building. It is aging rapidly and will eventually need a major overhaul.
Donations are appreciated and help greatly, they also demonstrate a commitment to the facility.

Question: How long is our mortgage?

Answer: Ten (10) years with a balloon payment.

Question: Is it a variable or a fixed interest rate?

Answer: It is a loan swap, which means that technically it is a variable interest rate, but the amount we pay stays fixed at \$78,000.00 per month for 10 years because they swap the loan.

Question: Are we in the black now even with the variances in occupancy?

Answer: Yes, we have a cushion, which the Board has planned on to allow for such variances.

Question: What is our break-even point on occupancy?

Answer: There are a lot of contingencies in that answer, it depends on how many residents are private pay, Medicaid, etc. We like to have an occupancy of 95-100%. Right now, we are at 89%. We could probably get down to 80% and still be operating in the black.

Planning Committee: Herb Carr

The committee is currently looking at options for what we can do with the Robert Russell Building. Our Medicaid residents are in the Robert Russell Building. The Aspen Wing is really on its last legs.

Question: Which wing is the Aspen Wing?

Answer: It is the farthest wing of the building and is the oldest part of the building.

Question: Are you looking for alternative places for Medicaid resident?

Answer: Yes, we are looking at options.

Question: There is a rumor that we are looking to get rid of Medicaid residents, is this true?

Answer: That is not true. In fact, the Gap Fund was established specifically to help Medicaid residents. The Board of Trustees feel that it is part of our mission to provide for Medicaid residents. Pati said that she “would quit if we got rid of Medicaid residents.”

Education Committee: Lesle Thomas

Larry explained Market Analysis for cost to residents to live in a facility. Each facility prices things differently. We are a mid-range community. When looking at a facility, you need to look at how it breaks down pricing. The Senior Blue Book gives base prices for a facility but does not include additional charges. Each facility has different charges for different things, such as level of care. You also need to look at what types of resident a facility accepts. Will they take ones that use a walker, or a wheelchair, one that need lifting help or that require a mechanical lift. You need to know what services a facility offers and the cost of each of those services, which will be added to the base cost.

Here we have four (4) levels of care. Each Medicaid resident receives the exact same levels of care as a private pay resident. The same level of service is offered. The same care, love and attention is given to all residents, regardless of how they pay.

Call Colorado Access and ask who are the top facilities in the state for Medicaid residents. We are one of the top facilities. We were recently inspected by Medicaid and she said that she gets the same feeling in the Mary Barry and the Robert Russell Buildings regarding care and attention.

We are a mission driven organization to provide the same level of care to all. However, if we don't have the funds available to provide that care, we are out of business.

Question: How long does it take a person to get on Medicaid?

Answer: Many variables. You must financially qualify. You must have assets of about \$115,000 or less. Medicaid is tied to Social Security benefits. The amount of time it takes varies. That is why we have the gap fund to cover expenses during the time the resident no longer has private pay insurance, but Medicaid has not yet kicked in.

Question: What if you do not collect Social Security?

Answer: Then you will not qualify for Medicaid until whatever pension you have runs out.

Board Member job descriptions were handed out. Terry Hudson spoke regarding the Board of Trustees. There will be two (2) positions open in September.

A potential Board member needs to demonstrate a strong commitment to the facility. A background check will be done. He/she must be willing to devote time to the facility. She/he must belong to at least one (1) committee and be active on it. This Board is committee driven. Each committee is doing research and bringing its recommendation to the Board for a vote. Active participation is essential. It is not helpful to show up to

one or two meetings a year. It is also important to note that issues/proposals are discussed at the Board meetings and voted on. Once something is decided on that is the Board decision and all members support it, regardless of how he/she voted.

The Board sets the guidelines and policies for the Center. Larry and his staff carry them out and make the decisions of how they will be carried out. The Board looks at everything from a broad perspective, not in the day to day details. The Board does not micromanage.

Karen Karns has submitted a letter to resign in September. Terry Hudson's term is up in September. Terry is planning to submit his name to run for the 5-year term in September.

As a Board member, you are elected by OES or appointed by the Grand Master. You, however, have a fiduciary responsibility and obligation to do what is right for the facility.

We have educational training in October and at other times for all Board members. These are very important to attend to improve ourselves.

We do want people who have talents to contribute to the Board. Common sense is very important in a Board Member.

We have a formal meeting quarterly and informal meetings in between. It is very important for every member to attend these meetings.

If you are interested in being a Board Member, submit a letter stating intention to run with your qualifications to Larry or any Board member.

New Business:

Other Discussion:

Question: Is the Cell Tower still going to be built?

Answer: Lawyers are still working on the details, but it should be done soon.

Question: Is there a House of Delegates job description to be presented?

Answer: Today was about the Board of Trustee job description. The HOD job description is to attend meetings, report to the membership and to support the functions of the facility.

Question: On the Western Slope we do not feel connected to the facility. Sometimes we feel like we are just being nickel and dimed, being asked for contributions.

Answer: That is somewhat true. You just must decide about where you want your money to go. It is hard to travel and get here very often. Maybe a group or groups from the outlying areas could come to the August picnic. Everything is free and there will be tours of the facility going on. It could be a great way to get members to feel some connection to the facility.

The next House of Delegates meeting will be on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at 10:00am here in the Fraternal Meeting Room.

Meeting closed at 11:56am.

Respectfully submitted,
Teressa Hudson, Recording Secretary