

Dorchester Seniors, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
David Sojourner Senior Center
St. George, SC
July 13, 2023 8:30am

The Board of Directors meeting date and time were submitted for publication to the Summerville Journal Scene, St. George Eagle Record, and Post and Courier as well as posted at the Faith Sellers and David Sojourner Senior Centers.

Board of Directors Attendance

Allen, Barb (R)	Main, Haren
Baus, Donald	Parsons, Jan
Cornette, Russ	Thomas, Diane
Davis, Carol (N)	Thomas, Frank
Hodges, James (A)	Villeponteaux, James
Jones, Dianne	Watson, Malika
Kelly, Pamela	Watts, Emily
Lewis, Tim	Winston, Kathene

Staff in Attendance

Leigh Thomson
LaQuinta West
Kristina Clemens
Brandi Chambers

Guests

DSI Driver

(A-Absent) (N-Absent with Notification) (R-Resigned) (V-Virtual)

Call to Order: Chairwoman Emily Watts called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

Quorum Confirmed: Secretary Diane Thomas

Motion to approve the Agenda: Motion by Haren Main with a second by Tim Lewis.
Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2023: Carol Davis motioned to approve the minutes. Frank Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Announcements and Correspondence: Chairwoman Watts read the resignation letter from Barb Allen. She has relocated to Manning, SC.

Executive Committee Report: Chairwoman Watts advised that the committee met multiple times with meetings held on May 19, June 9, June 15, June 21, June 23, and June 28. The meetings were held in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

Ms Watts continued her report by announcing that the Board needed to go to Executive Session.

Haren Main made the motion and Pamela Kelly seconded the motion for the Board to go to Executive Session. Motion passed. The guest was asked to depart the meeting and return when regular meeting resumed. Several issues were discussed at length. **Jay Villeponteaux made a motion to adjourn Executive Session. Dianne Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

During the regular meeting, Chairwoman Watts advised the Board members that she had updated the Board Committee List effective July 1, 2023. Copies of the new list would be available after the meeting.

Chairwoman Watts announced that the new Chair for the Fundraising Committee would be Pamela Kelly with Carol Davis serving as Co-Chair. Many thanks to Carol for her work as Chair of this committee.

Finance Committee: Chairman Haren Main stated that no meeting was held, however he had motion to present to the Board:

Mr. Main made a motion to accept a proposal from the accounting firm of Elliott-Davis to continue the audits for the next one (1) to three (3) years. The increase of cost will be seven percent (7%) to ten percent (10%) which will bring the total to an 18% increase per year. Mr. Main said this increase is expected due to the cost of doing business at this time. Salaries were increased, etc. The current amount for the audit for fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 was \$19,220 with an increase to \$22,700. Chairman Main stated we should accept the proposal as presented. **The motion received a second by Diane Thomas. The motion passed.** Mr. Main continued his report by discussing the status of DSI funds currently held in various accounts. No additional motions were made.

Governance Committee: Chairman James Villeponteaux stated that the committee met multiple times with discussions centering around the David Sojourner Senior Center flooring issue. Additionally, Mr. Villeponteaux stated that the committee is also working on updating the DSI Constitution and Bylaws. Copies of the updated Bylaws were given to all Board members for a First Reading. Comments and suggestions from Board members were to be emailed to Chairman Villeponteaux by August 15th, 2023 for consideration by the committee. He further stated there will be a Second Reading and vote of acceptance by the Board at the September 14th, 2023 Board meeting.

Fundraising Committee: Chairwoman Carol Davis (absent with notification) Due to Mrs. Davis' absence, Chairwoman Watts asked Pamela Kelly, Co-Chair to give a report on the meetings of the committee. Mrs. Kelly stated the committee met several times and discussed the forthcoming event to be held at the Davis-Bailey Park in St. George, SC on October 7, 2023. She also advised the Board that "Corkx", the bartender who was supposed to supply bar materials, etc. at the Spring Gala in April 2023 - but did not show at the event - had not refunded the \$900 he was paid for service to the Gala. Mrs. Kelly said he was contacted several times regarding the refunding of the money, but as of this date, no refund has been received from "Corkx". Chairwoman Watts stated that legal action will be taken if the refund is not received to DSI by September 1, 2023.

Nominating Committee: Chairman Tim Hudson stated no meetings were held.

Executive Director Report: Leigh Thomson updated activities at both senior centers. Additionally, she discussed the various grants for which she applied requesting funding for the programs offered at both centers. She advised that Bosch submitted a \$6,000 grant to assist with home-delivered meals; the Exchange Club grant totaled \$3,000; Trident United Way submitted \$7,000 also to be used for home-delivered meals; Coastal Community Foundation submitted \$5,000. Diane Thomas suggested Mrs. Thomson submit a grant request to Second Chance Thrift Shop, which she did.

Ms Thomson also advised the Board that Board member Russ Cornette agreed to install signs (submitted by DSI) to advertise our facility as a Senior Activity Center. The signs, pointing the way to the Faith Sellers Senior Center will be placed at the intersection of Highway 17A and Highway 78 with the intent of gaining the interest of people in that area. **A motion was made by Haren Main and**

seconded by Tim Hudson to erect signs displaying the words "50 Plus Adult Activity Center". Motion was carried.

Continuing the report from the Executive Director (Leigh Thomson), **a motion was made by Haren Main to increase the amount paid to the various instructors who participate in the activity programs available to DSI members.** The instructors are currently paid \$35 per class, and Mr. Main motioned that instructors pay should be increased to \$40 per class. There are currently 8 instructors. **Kathene Winston seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Mrs. Thomson then suggested that the private pay rate for members who purchase lunch in DSI be raised from \$5.00 to \$7.00. The current cost per meal is \$6.40. **Haren Main motioned to raise the private pay rate for lunch to \$7.00. Malika Watson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Mrs. Thomson continued her report by explaining that funding for "agency-funded meals" is no longer available. In order to alleviate the problem, she suggests the congregate donations (from congregate dining, home delivered meals, and transportation waiting for assessment) - could be allowed to cover the cost until funding is available. **Haren Main made a motion that the congregate donations be used as suggested by Mrs. Thomson. Kathene Winston seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Mrs. Thomson concluded her report by telling the Board that the Summerville Chamber was scheduled to meet in the Faith Sellers Senior Center at 5:30pm on July 20, 2023. She encouraged board members attend this meeting to show support. Additionally, the Chamber is scheduled to meet on July 27th in the St. George Center.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The next meeting will be held September 14, 2023 at the Faith Sellers Senior Center in Summerville, SC at 5:30pm.

Diane Thomas made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Malika Watson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Thomas
Secretary