

DORCHESTER SENIORS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2024
Location: DAVID SOJOURNER SENIOR CENTER
ST. GEORGE, SC

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 the David Sojourner Senior Centers.

Board of Directors Attendance (Quorum status)

Baus, Donald		Main, Haren	
Cornnette, Russ	(LE)	Parsons, Jan	
Davis, Carol		Sojourner, Ruthie	
Goodwine, Margaret	(L)	Thomas, Diane	
Hodges, James	(A)	Thomas, Frank	(N)
Hudson, Tim		Villeponteaux, James	
Jones, Dianne		Watson, Malika	
Kelly, Pamela		Watts, Emily	
Lewis, Tim		Winston, Kathene	

(A-Absent without Notification) (N-Absent with Notification) (L-Late) (LE-Left Early)
(R-Resigned) (V-Virtual)

CALL TO Order: Chairman Emily Watts called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: LaQuinta West, Brandi Chambers, Darline Brogdon

QUORUM CONFIRMED: Secretary Diane Thomas

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA: Motion to approve agenda by Jay Villeponteaux with a second by Malika Watson.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2023 by Haren Main with a second by Malika Watson. Motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2023 by Dianne Jones with a second by Tim Lewis.

Chairman Watts then introduced the two (2) newly elected members of the Board which included Ruthie Sojourner Tripp and Margaret Goodwine. Each had the opportunity to advise the current members of their backgrounds. Additionally, the current members each introduced themselves to the newcomers.

Chairman Watts also took this opportunity to confirm that all members received the Gift Certificates given out for Christmas in lieu of a Christmas party.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Laquinta West

Next on the agenda was the report by Executive Director LaQuinta West. She advised on the status of the centers as well as the progress on the audit as well as the addition of new positions.

Additionally, she and Sharon Sellers (Human Resources) discussed the Employee Handbook which has been updated to insure all necessary current items are properly covered with the changes necessary to continue to meet the challenges faced with an organization such as DSI. Additionally, Federal and State mandates are often updated which requires changes to stay abreast of new regulations and rules. All Board members and employees will receive a copy of the revised Employee Handbook.

The subject of a probationary period for employees was briefly discussed; however, it appears that this is now obsolete and should be stricken from the handbook. Motion was made by Haren Main to not include the probationary period with a second by Tim Lewis.

The amount of funds that will be paid while traveling will be a total of \$45 per diem per day for food. Receipts must be presented for reimbursement. Motion was made by Haren Main with a second by Frank Thomas. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FUNDRAISING: Chairman Pamela Kelly

Chairman Pamela Kelly updated the Board on the Third Annual Spring Gala scheduled for April 20, 2024 at the Faith Sellers Senior Center.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN HAREN MAIN

Chairman Main advised there are still no Financial reports available as yet. They are diligently being compiled. Tax year 2022 is complete. DSI has transitioned from Quick Books Desk Tops to Quick Books on Line which should allow for easier transitioning in the future. Tax year 2023 should be complete by the end of January.

DSI has two (2) CD's which are maturing this month. Rather than lose them, Haren Main took the advise of our marketing person and decided to "park" them into a money market account

until it was determined what we should do as this account would return a similar amount.

Haren Main then advised that for the rest of his report, he needed to go into Executive Session. Tim Lewis seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Haren Main to accept the items discussed during the Executive Session with a second by Jan Parsons. Motion passed.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: Chairman James Villeponteaux

Chairman James Villeponteaux updated the Board on the David Sojourner Senior Center flooring. It has been determined that the flooring issue, whereby there is water seepage, is a long standing issue. Chairman Villeponteaux recently discovered the problem is long standing dating back to when the building was built in 1998. No vapor barrier was installed at that time. The county had a company pursue the problem. They, in turn, advised the job would cost \$40,000 to \$50,000 to possibly correct it.

Chairman Villepoteaux decided to meet with Jason Ward at a later date to determine what should or could be done. His thought is to broach a different resolution whereby the county could give DSI some land near the St. George Court House whereby we could build a DSI Wellness Center for St. George to replace the current center. This will be under discussion at a later date.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chairman Tim Hudson

Chairman Hudson stated the Nominating Committee would be represented by five candidates.

Nominees included Tim Hudson, Dianne Jones, Malika Watson, Jan Parsons, Katheen Winston and Pamela Kelly. Elected to the position were Tim Hudson, Dianne Jones, Malika Watson, Jan Parsons, and Pamela Kelly.

Next meeting will be held on March 14, 2024 at 4:30 PM at the Faith Sellers Senior Center

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Diane Thomas