

Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads
Resident Community Meeting
October 12, 2020

Resident Council Chair Arthur Welch opened the virtual community meeting at 10:00 a.m. He noted that the taped meeting would be available on the resident website.

Chair Welch began in memoriam of a departed resident:

Dr. Yolanda Oertel (Sep 23)

and welcomed new residents:

Margaret Burns (Sep 23) Apt. 516
Lee Vickers (Sep 25) Apt. 401
Kathleen & Michael Morton (Sep 29) Apt. 372
Beverley Augustitis (Oct 2) Apt. 1220
Ms David (Davy) Hammatt (Oct 4) Apt. 809
Mary Ferrand (Oct 6) Apt. 1037

Executive Director Justin Carwile paid tribute to the many ways in which staff and residents dealt with the conditions caused by the pandemic. He reported that earlier in the year, service awards were made to over 50 staff members for a total of 440 years of service, and some had received a variety of other awards.

He reported the extent of resident engagement by citing the 7500 volunteer hours logged in by residents during the fiscal year. In addition to the normal activities, the pandemic had relied on volunteers to distribute the morning newspapers, to collect 20,000 food delivery bags for reuse by local pantries, and to help each other with absentee ballot applications.

Life Enrichment and the Therapeutic Recreation team planned a variety of activities, many outdoors, to help residents keep their spirits up.

Board of Trustees Chair Mary Hix praised Rob Liebreich for his commitment to responding to the present and to envisioning the future. Many other entities in senior living have had to abandon all thought of the future. The Board was kept informed of the steps that were taken, and she added that she noticed that at Goodwin House, the residents and staff were looking out for one another.

She noted that the Strategic Plan Forward is still being considered, allowing them to think of new initiatives. CFO Richard Carter assured the Board that although there is a lot of uncertainty in the budget because of COVID demands, Goodwin House is in a solid financial condition. The occupancy rate is high and they are implementing steps toward a living wage for staff.

In December, several members will rotate out of their positions on the Board, so their next responsibility is to find replacements.

GHI President and CEO Rob Liebreich asked for a moment of silence to honor the departed members of our community. He then reported that, in spite of the extra spending for pandemic related matters, the financial condition of Goodwin House remains good, noting that 72% of nursing facilities and 52% of assisted living facilities have closed as a result of the strains of the pandemic. Goodwin House maintains value, judging by the continuing influx of new residents.

In our commitment to the larger community, Goodwin House is lending its experience and success in dealing with the crisis to other institutions in the larger community.

Questions/Answers

Q: 1) Elaborate on the uncertainties of the budget. 2) Suggest opening the swimming pool on Saturdays.

A: We don't know how long the pandemic will persist, so we have built into the budget, the assumption that the pandemic will be here the entire year. We don't know if people will want to come here, but so far people are wanting to come here. But that could change. Two million dollars are in the budget for COVID preparedness.

Another uncertainty is staff and recruitment. Goodwin House Foundation has made 550 grants to current staff to support loss of second jobs or deaths in the family. We have been named "Best place to work" by the Washington Post two years in a row. Another way to attract and keep staff is to pay a competitive wage. No one is currently being paid less than \$15.50 and no care giver or nursing assistant less than \$17.75.

Re: swimming pool: The swimming pool is opening Saturdays beginning October 17.

Q: In our management support of Lewinsville, how have things gone there with resources so much more limited than ours?

A: They are not a health care, but primarily an independent living institution, so they do not undergo the same requirement for testing. So far, the residents are holding up ok. Financially, they were able to take advantage of government funds, even though Goodwin House itself was too large to qualify.

Q: Are there plans to allow more family contact over the holidays?

A: Priority is to save lives and keep people safe and we prefer to err on the side of caution. The combination of flu, winter and pandemic are concerning. Infection rates are going up, not down. So any lapse in vigilance can lead to infection. We are looking for ways to help people connect, but for now people will have to use technological means to stay connected. Carwile added that Goodwin House will continue to monitor, see how well we do into the holidays, and see if there is a way to ease up a little bit.

Chair of Elections Joan Lewis called for nominations to the Resident Council. There are six positions from independent living and 1 from assisted living. Assisted living will take care of their own elections. Newcomers as well as long time residents are encouraged to apply. The key role of a resident council member is to serve as a communication link among residents and between residents and management, to attend meetings, and to serve as a liaison to a chartered committee. Yellow nomination forms will be available by the elevators. They should be completed and placed in the designated folder in the business center.

Co-chair (with Nancy DeMarco) of the Employee Gift Fund Eleanor Karro reminded residents that the Employee Gift Fund campaign will run from October 30 to November 29 this year. The theme “Blizzard of Giving” emphasizes the extraordinary strain placed on our staff during the pandemic, and the hope that residents will respond generously.

Additional question

Q. Flu shots are hard to come by. Are you amassing a giant order as you did for PPE in the pandemic?

A: Yes.

The meeting ended at 10:55 a.m.

Submitted by Toki Shimabukuro