

HOLLISTON COUNCIL ON AGING  
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting  
March 15, 2023 – 2:00 PM

Members Present: Yvette Cain, Kathy Anguish, Carmen Chiango (remote), Janet Alexander, Millie Bedard and Lynne Bajdek

Members Absent: Georgia Papavasiliou

Staff Present: Lisa Borchetta, Amy Rose, Melicia DaCosta and Debbie Dupuis

Associate Member Absent: Peter Eagan

Guests: Chris Cain, Holliston Reporter (remote)

Call to Order:

The hybrid meeting was conducted in person in the Senior Center classroom, with masks being optional, as well as online via Zoom. Yvette took an audio roll call, and with a quorum being present, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Public Comment:

Program suggestions that came out of a recent SelectChat were sent to Yvette for review. They included:

- 1) More trips through Fox Travel (e.g. PawSox games, Dinner Shows, Casinos, Museums, etc.)
- 2) A request for town funds to cover program presenters and eliminate donations from participants. Ben Sparrell said the funds could come from ARPA funds, but we need to ask.
- 3) Have seniors suggest lunch menus and activities and trips. Maybe a form in the newsletter.
- 4) Change name from Senior Center to something else.
- 5) Schedule evening activities including transportation for those who don't drive at night.

→**Conversation regarding these suggestions will be continued at April 12 meeting.**

Minutes for February 8, 2023 Meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved (moved by Kathy, seconded by Millie).

Introduction to Assistant Director, Amy Rose: Lisa gave a warm welcome to Amy and introduced her to the group. Amy was previously at Mass Home Care and the Wellesley Senior Center in charge of programs. She comes with a solid background working with seniors and has expertise in the "My Senior Center" software that will be a benefit in tracking data and writing grants. Welcome Amy!

Communications:

Staff Comments:

- Amy gave an overview of programs she is currently working on.
  - Streamlining newsletters
  - Voluntary applications and CORI approvals
  - Lunch programs regarding home delivery, pricing, caterers, etc.

→**Discussion on the above has been tabled to next scheduled COA meeting on April 12.**

→Amy will present a list of programs/activities that require funding approval from the COA Board at a special meeting scheduled for March 29. Request for funding will be sent out prior to meeting and will include:

- Art workshops proposed for May and June
- Collaborations with other COA Boards to attend Culturally Curious programs via Zoom
- June bus trip

Melicia asked for clarity on who is qualified to receive home meal deliveries. Debbie stated that meal deliveries were instituted with the start of Covid, serving 50 people. Even though the numbers have drastically reduced, new inquiries and requests are coming in. Yvette suggested Melicia contact Youth & Family Services to identify criteria.

The Taxi Grant is being utilized now and working well. Melicia is now adding all the transportation usage into “My Senior Center” that will be useful in filling out reports for grants.

#### Senior Center Director’s Report Lisa Borchetta:

- Building Issues:
  - Stove has been repaired and is operating as it should now.
  - Three staff offices will be painted, and baseboards will be installed.
- Grants:
  - **Formula Grant** - the FY24 budget is being raised from \$12 per elder to the proposed \$14 per elder. Governor Healey’s proposal will also advocate for funding a Geriatric Mental Health Services Program for FY24.
  - **UMass Boston 55+ Survey** – Final report has been completed. The Institute is open to extending their consultation and guidance to us at any time.
  - **Senior Safe Program** –Ongoing with John Gagnon in coordination with Fire Department.
  - **Habitat for Humanity/ARPA Program** – Presentation had to be rescheduled. Two projects completed, a third almost done, and one more in the pipeline.
- Code of Conduct/Review Committee: The Select Board has approved a new policy for Town Hall which will be adopted by the Senior Center.
- SSF Requests: Motion to approve \$1985 was unanimously approved (moved by Kathy, seconded by Millie) for the following:

Garden Club	\$5.00 Cash
Bingo (April and May)	\$80.00 Cash
Volunteer Appreciation Lunch	\$1600.00 Credit Card/Check
Coffee with Holliston Police (May)	\$50.00 Credit Card
Veteran’s Coffee Hour (May)	\$50.00 Credit Card
Monthly Breakfast (April and May)	\$200.00 Credit Card

#### Old Business:

##### **Survey Results and Recommendations.**

Focus our efforts on one longer term project and one or two quick solutions.

- One thought was to create an “age and dementia friendly community” making Holliston a great place to grow up and grow old in. Programs would be aligned with or be a good fit for the things we value in the community. A huge undertaking that would require buy in

and collaboration with all the other town departments. Out of the 351 towns in Massachusetts, 200 are already working toward age and dementia friendly components.

- Another thought is to reevaluate the existing programs and services and compare those offerings with the recommendations from the survey to see how we can fill in the blanks. One example of expanding our programs to entice younger/working seniors would be to collaborate with other departments throughout the town to offer programs in the evening hours or weekends.

**→Yvette asked the group to think about rebranding and programming and continue discussions at the next scheduled meeting on April 12.**

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn was approved (Lynn moved; Kathy seconded). Special Meeting to discuss and approve Funding and Programming will be held on March 29 at 2:00 PM. Regular Monthly Meeting is scheduled for April 12 at 2:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Alexander