

HOLLISTON COUNCIL ON AGING
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting
May 10, 2023 – 2:00 PM

Members Present: Yvette Cain, Lynne Bajdek, Carmen Chiango, Janet Alexander, Georgia Papavasiliou and Millie Bedard

Absent: Kathy Anguish

Staff Present: Lisa Borchetta

Associate Member Present: Peter Eagan

Guests: Holliston Reporter (remote)

Call to Order:

The hybrid meeting was conducted in person in the Senior Center classroom, as well as online via Zoom. With a quorum being present, Yvette called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Minutes for April 12, 2023 Meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved (moved by Georgia, seconded by Lynn).

Senior Center Director's Report - Lisa Borchetta:

- Building Issues:
 - Gardens have been cleaned up by DPW and Ambassadors & Alumni of Project 351.
 - Eighth graders will assist with raising the tent, cleaning outdoor furniture, and moving medical equipment on May 26 from 10am-1pm.
 - Three staff offices have been painted.
 - Chairs in the Great Hall have been replaced.
 - Cameras at Senior Center entrances have been installed.
- Action: Lisa will look into the installation of motion lights around the back of building.
- Grants:
 - **Formula Grant** – Reviewing possibilities for using the remaining Formula Grant Funds. Lisa uses the Green Guide which lists all the eligible costs and best practices for the Fund. There may be an increase per person in 2023.
 - **Senior Safe Program** –Lisa is looking for referrals of people needing smoke detectors and/or grab bars installed.– No eligibility requirements for Holliston residents.
 - **Habitat for Humanity/ARPA Program** Two projects in progress. Few potential applicants are being considered.
 - **MA Development Finance Agency – Taxi Grant** –Ongoing. Valuable adjunct to our van services.
 - Lisa is aware of new grants that may be applied for but does not have the bandwidth to proceed yet.
- Staff Updates:
 - Applications and interviews are in process for the Assistant Director position. Currently there are 10-12 possible candidates.
 - Outreach/Transportation – MWRTA and Senior Center have resumed charging fees for van transportation.
 - Mailing lists are being updated and new postal regulations/processes are being reviewed. Senior Center is required to set up two separate fund accounts – one for mail going out and one for mail being returned.

- SSF Requests: Motion to approve \$315 was unanimously approved (moved by Millie, seconded by Georgia) for the following:

Crafter, Continental Breakfast	\$75.00 Credit Card
Bingo - June	\$40.00 Cash
Coffee with Holliston Police - June	\$50.00 Credit Card
Veteran's Coffee – June	\$50.00 Credit Card
Monthly Breakfast - June	\$100.00 Credit Card

Yvette noted that the COA Board would not be meeting during the months of July and August, so any SSF requests for those months, including September, should be addressed at the June meeting.

Once the new Assistant Director is onboard, the “My Senior Center” software application will be better utilized for tracking usage of the senior center and gathering data that will better help in prioritizing programs.

→Action: A suggestion box will be placed in a visible location to capture members’ preferences.

Old Business:

Envisioning Holliston Update – Peter Eagan gave an update. The consultant, BerryDunn, is compiling data from the three previously held forums, as well as information from “Meeting In A Box.” The “Social Pinpoint,” available on the Town website, captures residents’ interests. To date there have been 225 unique users.

New Business

The Programs and Services Advisory Sub Committee met for two sessions to review the six (6) recommendations resulting from the UMass Senior Survey, the activities and programs currently offered at the senior center, and suggestions from the community. The group then created a list of new programs and services based on requests for more physical activities, lifelong educational programs, and how we could change the perception of people that the senior center is not a “needs based” service program center. The list was divided into six (6) categories: Be Creative, Be Curious, Be Giving, Be Prepared, Be Social, and Be Well. Each member of the committee was given five (5) stickers to vote for their priorities. The highest scoring categories were:

Monthly Learning Sessions – Lectures/How to Presentations
Game Leagues (Bowling Golf, Bocce, etc.)
Bus Trips/Overnight Trips (Museums, Theater, Tower Hill, etc.)
New Member Buddies

The above recommendations will be given priority by the newly appointed Assistant Director.

A Motion to accept the sub-committee’s recommended four (4) categories was unanimously approved (Moved by Millie; seconded by Carmen).

Yvette reminded everyone that Town Meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 15 and Town Elections were scheduled for May 23. She also stated that a new study revealed that “loneliness” was at an all-time high in the United States leading to depression and suicide and commented on the benefits of “Call To Talk.”

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn was unanimously approved (Janet moved; Lynn seconded). Next scheduled meeting is June 7, 2023. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Alexander