

HOLLISTON COUNCIL ON AGING
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting
February 14, 2024 – 1:00 PM

Members Present: Yvette Cain, Kathy Anguish, Lynne Bajdek, Janet Alexander, Peter Eagan and Georgia Papavasiliou

Members Present Remotely: Carmen Chiango

Staff Present: Lisa Borchetta

Guests: Ben Sparrell, James Keast, and Kevin Conley

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, the meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

Public Comments:

- Ben Sparrell and James Keast gave an overview on the Statement of Interest (SOI) that is currently being submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for approval. The SOI is the first step in the process of requesting funds either to renovate or build a new high school. The existing High School was built in 1968, repairs and upgrades were done in the late 1990s, and the current building needs plumbing, HVAC, electrical and structural updates and repairs, as well as bringing the educational needs up-to-date for 21st century learning. Holliston submitted requests to the MSBA in past years but has been refused funding. If approved this year, the state will cover approximately 40% of costs; total costs estimated to be \$180M. More information can be found at <https://www.townofholliston.us/facilities/files/high-school-fca>
- Theresa Lamkin is soliciting the Senior Center/COA participation in the town's 300th Anniversary Parade in May. Discussion has been tabled for March COA Meeting.

Minutes for January 10, 2024 were unanimously approved (moved by Kathy; seconded by Lynn).

Senior Center Director's Report - Lisa Borchetta:

- Indoors/Outdoors:
 - Still waiting for the Architectural Survey of the building to be scheduled.
 - DPW is meeting all clean up requirements for snow and ice removal.
- Grants:
 - MA Formula Grant – Lisa, utilizing data from the *MYSeniorCenter* portal, is completing the annual Formula Grant Report which is the primary funding from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA).
 - The EOEA has announced an approximately \$4.5M grant program to enhance Supportive and Social Day Programs throughout the Commonwealth. Grants of up to \$50K are available for planning, and grants of up to \$300K are available for expanding or launching programs. Lisa and Cynthia will be applying for both the planning and launching funds. The EOEA is also establishing contracts with selected organizations to deliver the Elder Mental Health Outreach Team Program (EMHOT) model to strengthen the availability and provision of older adult behavioral health services.
 - Lisa is currently looking for funding opportunities for newer vans.
- Staff Updates:
 - Assistant Director, Laura Parmensi – Programs

- Core Volunteer Meeting scheduled for February 23 will allow for discussion and Q&A.
- LBGTQ+ Group Volunteer Training is scheduled for March.
- Day Trips:
 - Bloom Tours will be running an excursion to Cape Ann on April 25.
 - Laura is exploring additional trips with Senior Excursions, Best of Times Travel, and Bloom Tours for the rest of the year as well as looking into local day trips using our own van and drivers.
- Outreach/Transportation Coordinator – Cynthia Listewnik
 - Part time Van Drivers – actively advertising for relief drivers.
 - Looking into various opportunities (i.e., student internship, dementia friendly lunch and learn programming, alternative lunch delivery program through Springwell, ADA ridership, etc.).
 - Completed LGBTQ training and currently enrolled in a Professional Development Certification Course through BU to become a Certified Case Manager.
 - Helped facilitate two new programs – an ongoing Prism Coffee Hour for the LGBTQ community, and a Long-Term Disability Insurance seminar.
 - Managing the Senior Safe Program – eight (8) new requests since January 1.
- Administrative Assistant – Debbie Dupuis:
 - All drivers have, or will be, trained through MWRTA within the next couple of months.
- SSF Requests: Motion to approve \$1738 was unanimously approved (moved by Georgia, seconded by Kathy) for the following:

Lunch & A Movie – March & April	\$ 250
Long-Term Care Policy Info & Lunch – April	\$ 200
Volunteer Appreciation Lunch – April	\$1,288

New Business:

- The Rebranding sub-committee has developed a process and will report 5-6 ideas in March for review.
- After a discussion with the Town Administrator and Facilities Manager, Lisa is proposing two increases from last month's review and approval of the FY2025 Budget. The \$8,131 increase is in the Administrative Salaries and Building & Grounds Maintenance as shown below.

Account Name	Approved Budget	Change Request	Change Amount
Administrative Salaries	\$ 76,233	\$ 80,364	\$4,131
Building & Grounds Maintenance	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,000	\$4,000
TOTAL FY2025 BUDGET	\$305,507	\$313,638	\$8,131

The FY25 Budget Request change from \$305,507 to \$313,638 was unanimously approved (moved by Peter; seconded by Kathy).

Old Business:

Envisioning Holliston Update: Committee will roll out a publication of the Strategic Plan prior to Town Meeting and will include the website, a video production, and small print run. The tracking document

for measuring progress was approved and Travis Ahern will be working with various departments and committees to explain the format.

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn was unanimously approved (moved by Kathy; seconded by Georgia). Next scheduled meeting is March 13, 2024 at 2:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 2:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Alexander