

## Holliston Council on Aging

### Minutes of the Meeting

Date: February 10, 2021

Time: 2:00 PM

By Zoom Teleconference (81177149113)

Members present by roll call:

Kathy Anguish, Member  
Yvette Cain, Member  
Frank Caron, Member  
Carmen Chiango, Member  
Bob Hopkins, Vice Chair  
Shirley Hopkins, Associate Member

Staff Present:

Linda Marshall, Director  
Bryan Perkins, Assistant Director  
Marty Schneier, Outreach &  
Transport Coordinator

Bob Hopkins, Assistant Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Linda Marshall read the statement regarding the suspension of certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and the authorized use of remote participation. She noted that a roll call of attendance will be taken; that all votes during the meeting will be by roll call, and that any motions, seconds, or discussion should be preceded by the member's announcement of his/her name. Bob Hopkins took attendance by roll-call.

The first item on the agenda was an update on the Director search. Linda Marshall, Director provided the following information:

- Total number of applicants is 9 (No present or former Senior Center Directors applied.)
- 5 applicants of the 9 were selected to be interviewed in-person on February 11 and 12, 2021;
- Final applicants will be sent to the Selection Committee (Travis Ahern, Town Administrator, Chris Meo, Technology Director, and Yvette Cain, COA Member) for a final interview on February 25 and 26, 2021.

The second item on the agenda was the Director's Report, delivered by Linda Marshall:

- Building Issues

Due to increased phone use, the phone system has been crashing. Chris Meo, Technology Director, has assisted in obtaining an upgraded phone and Internet system to provide more bandwidth. This Verizon system is \$70/month \$840/year. As this item had not been approved during the Director's presentation of the FY2022 budget, a motion was made by Yvette Cain and seconded by Frank Caron to approve this item for inclusion on the FY 2022 budget that passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Renovations begin next week in the Great Hall of the Senior Center building. The 2020 Fall Town Meeting had approved \$40,000 for these renovations that include painting, carpeting and ceiling tiles.

- Grants and Donations

Cultural Council Grants (2) - Information should be coming soon.

Transportation Grant through Metropolitan Area Planning (\$34,000) - Decision delayed due to increased applicant pool—far more than available funds can support.

\$400.00 received from Superette customers.

- Ongoing Programs

*Decreasing Social Isolation in Seniors Through Technology* - Twenty recently purchased electronic tablets are beginning to make their way into the hands of seniors. With the help of a recently-hired Technology Assistant, these seniors will begin making electronic connections.

*Chat with Staff* - Presently no seniors interested, but Marshall sees an opportunity here to connect with the group described above.

*Valentine Party* - Successfully held a picked-up/delivered Valentine celebration with nearly 200 meals.

*Phone a Friend* - Slowly beginning.

*Meal Delivery* - Fifty individuals receive Mondays and Wednesday delivered meals.

*Transportation* - Essential transportation continues. Working on plan for assisting seniors with transportation to COVID vaccines. The Select Board has approved \$15,000 of the CARES Act monies for drivers for this purpose.

- New Programs

IRS Taxes - AARP volunteers return to help seniors with income tax preparation, using a new two-part procedure changed due to COVID restrictions.

*St. Patrick's Day Celebration* (March 15) - A party-to-go with corned beef and cabbage.

*Volunteer Appreciation Brunch* (April 20) - For volunteers who logged over 20 hours during 2020, a drive by brunch at Anthony's on the Green.

*Hello/Good-bye Cookout* (May 4) - Hello to the new Director, Good-bye to the former.

- COVID 19 Update

Phone calls have increased overwhelmingly for information concerning COVID 19 vaccines. Volunteers have been trained and will assist seniors in making appointments.

COVID building restrictions and regulations still apply to the Senior Center, which is open by appointment only.

- Budget F2022

The Budget has been supported by the Select Board and presented to the Finance Committee.

- SSF Requests

Two requests were made, each \$750 (\$1500 total) to fund the Volunteer Brunch and the Hello/Goodbye Cookout.

A motion (made by Frank Caron, seconded by Carmen Chiango) to accept the Director's Report, was approved by unanimous vote of the COA.

A motion to adjourn (made by Carmen Chiango, seconded by Frank Caron) with unanimous roll-call vote at 1:45 PM. The next meeting of the COA is planned for March 10 at 2:00 PM.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted,

Yvette Cain