

HOLLISTON COUNCIL ON AGING
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting
April 12, 2023 – 2:00 PM

Members Present: Yvette Cain, Kathy Anguish, Carmen Chiango, Janet Alexander, and Millie Bedard

Absent: Lynne Bajdek

Staff Present: Lisa Borchetta

Absent: Melicia DaCosta and Debbie Dupuis

Associate Member Present: Peter Eagan

Guests: Town of Holliston-Chris Mayo (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 2:05 PM.

Minutes for March 15, 2023 Meeting. Minutes, as corrected, were unanimously approved (moved by Kathy, seconded by Millie).

Senior Center Director's Report - Lisa Borchetta:

- Building Issues:
 - HVAC units have been inspected and serviced. Vents in rooms will be adjusted to see if temperatures can be regulated in all rooms.
 - DPW will be cutting down dead trees at the back of the parking lot.
- Grants:
 - **Formula Grant** – Received final check from MetroWest Health Foundation closing out this grant. Final invoice for UMass Boston, Gerontology Institute has been submitted for payment. UMass remains open to us if we would like additional data drawn from the survey.
 - **Senior Safe Program** –Ongoing. Referrals are still coming in through Holliston Fire Dept.
 - **Habitat for Humanity/ARPA Program** Two projects complete, two projects in progress. Our maximum per project is \$20K, expenses between \$20-25K may be offset by Habitat.
 - **MA Development Finance Agency – Taxi Grant** – the taxi transportation program has been restarted and is a good adjunct to our van services.
- Staff Updates:
 - Staff Updates will be incorporated into the Monthly Director's Report rather than the staff being physically present at the meetings.
 - Posting for new Assistant Director is on the MMA site, the MCOA and additional age-related organizations such as Boston Bridge at MIT Age Lab, UMass Boston, and Life Planning Network. Applications and interviews are being scheduled.
 - Outreach/Transportation – investigating coordinated training on the issue of "hoarding" with town departments and local organizations.
 - Lisa applauded Debbie Dubuis' assistance in the administrative tasks around the center as well as the number of volunteers that are essential to the functioning of the center.
- SSF Requests: Motion to approve \$2450 was unanimously approved (moved by Kathy, seconded by Janet) for the following:

Volunteer Gift	\$150.00 Credit Card
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Summer Sizzler Food for June 14	\$1600.00 Discretionary Funds or Credit Card
Summer Sizzler – Paper Goods & Centerpiece	\$300.00 Credit Card
Lunch & Movie – May & June	\$400.00 Check

Old Business:

Envisioning Holliston Update – Peter Eagan shared that the consultant, BerryDunn, is currently embarking on the Stakeholder Engagement Phase whereby residents are able to post ideas and comments on a platform called Social Pinpoint which is accessible from the Town’s website. Another concept available on the site is a “Meeting in a box.” This is a community engagement tool where groups can gather and share ideas for the future of the town. It allows for a meeting to be held at a convenient time and place in a safe and welcoming environment. Details for holding a meeting can be downloaded from the website or obtained from town hall. At the end of a meeting, materials will be collected, and returned and consolidated by the consultant. Some potential targets for “Meeting in a box” are other town departments or organizations, such as the COA, fraternal groups, neighborhoods, etc. The next step is “community forums” scheduled for May 2-4 giving opportunities for the community to participate and voice their opinions and comments. The senior center will be hosting a “community forum” sometime in May for the town at large. At the conclusion of these phases, the consultant will consolidate the data and create an environmental scan of what the town envisions.

Survey Results and Recommendations.

Yvette handed out a printed list of current programs offered at the senior center and asked for volunteers to serve on an ad hoc committee called the “Programs & Services Advisory Sub-Committee.” The committee will be tasked with researching what other Centers and COAs provide, a list of resources and costs for guest speakers and instructors, programs that could, or are, offered off hours, as well as other gap areas that the UMass Survey identified. The committee will be comprised of Yvette, Lisa, Georgia and Janet. The group will meet in April and May and present their findings in June for full group discussion.

New Business

The town is moving to “Age and Dementia Friendly” activities and services. Some of the immediate projects are:

- Sidewalks and crosswalks along Washington Street will be ADA compliant.
- The Park & Rec Dept is looking at the trail by Woodland Street to install Pickle Ball Courts. The selected site will hopefully mitigate the noise level associated with the sport thereby eliminating the need for modified hours.
- An Age Friendly Wooded Trail (3/4th mile section) around the Woodland Street school campus is being considered for a walking path. Anyone interested in helping or giving feedback should contact Tina Hein.

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn was unanimously approved (Kathy moved; Georgia seconded). Next scheduled meeting is May 10, 2023. Meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Alexander