

# COUNCIL ON AGING

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday January 6, 2023

Present: Pina Mingace, Edna Murray, Daisy Monsalve, Marian Bremer, Maclise Jean, Neeraj Wadhera

Council on Aging Staff Present: Ashley Speliotis, Connie Lorenti, Maureen Bastardi

Location: This meeting was held in person at the Holland Street Senior Center, located at 167 Holland Street, Somerville, MA 02144. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

The Council's primary responsibility is to advise the Council on Aging in the promotion and implementation of programs and services to address the needs of the community's elder population.

1. Nominee of Chair, Pro Tempe
  - Daisy Monsalve nominated chair pro-tempe
2. Call to order: 11:05am
3. Approval of October's Minutes
  - a. --Minutes approved by Edna Murray, seconded by Pina Mingace
4. Introduction of Maureen Bastardi to the Board. Shared about her role as a Program Coordinator and her work with the LGBTQIA+ group.
5. Old Business: Community Needs Assessment.
  - a. The COA has received a contract from UMass Boston. The tentative plan is to develop the survey in early spring, distribute the survey throughout the summer and receive write up/date late fall. The contract is now moving through the City's purchasing department.
6. New Business: Introduction of Board to Councilor Kristen Strezo who was in attendance at meeting.
  - a. Motion made by Marion Bremer to discuss parking and mobility with Councilor Strezo. Board discussed changes to Holland Street and the reduction of available parking which can hinder the ability to attend programming at the center. Also spoke about changes to the parking lot overseen by Tufts University and changes to the availability of seating located at bus stops.
    - o Thoughts regarding potential solutions were
      1. The creation of a senior resident sticker to make parking at a meter free for those over 65.
      2. Support ongoing conversations with Tufts to lower the cost of metered parking at the 167/169 Holland Street Lots. Parking at

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these lots is currently \$2.50 per hour or \$10 per day and the board would like for the cost to be more in-line with the City rate of \$1.25 per hour. They are also requesting additional meters to be placed closer to the entrance and for the ability to pay the meter in cash rather than by app or credit card.

3. The consideration to mark the spaces on Holland Street, directly in front of the Holland Street Center, as “Parking for the Holland St. Senior Center” between the hours of 8:30am and 1:30pm, Monday thru Friday.
  - b. Motion made by Daisy Monsalve to discuss increased communication with our local political representatives. Board discussed the COA hosting larger events with the intention of seniors being able to share their concerns with our local delegation. Council Strezo introduced the idea of having a City Council Representative at the Board Meetings. The COA Board is an advisory board so a closer look into the by-laws will be needed to see if this is a possibility.
7. Director’s Report:
- a. December was a very productive month. In addition to ongoing program, the COA distributed about 2000 holiday presents to seniors. We also hosted larger events including a Super Bingo and Holiday Party.
  - b. 2023 will see an expansion of exercise programing including a Fit-4-Life session at the Ralph and Jenny Center and a general exercise class lead by Tufts University student athletes. Day and overnight trips are out for bid; the first trip should occur in March of 2023. Our Asian Tea event, which is bilingual in Cantonese and English has expanded to have a “guest” each month. In January, the group will be joined by a Professional Paper Cutting Artist who will help lead a Lunar New Year celebration. In 2023 we will be hosting a cultural arts series—each month the COA will host an artist (visual/performing) and serve a special lunch. Guest will include a magician, a Brazilian Drummer, a singer performing in Spanish, English and Portuguese.
8. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:07pm
9. Next Meeting: February 3, 2023 at 11:00am