

COUNCIL ON AGING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday March 3, 2023

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

Council on Aging Staff Present: Ashley Speliotis, Connie Lorenti

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 by Edna Murray, Seconded by Pina Mingace.
2. Call to order: 11:10am
3. Approval of February Minutes
 - a. --Minutes approved by Neeraj Wadhera, seconded by Edna Murray
4. New Business:
 - Agenda Item: Overview of project development and decision-making process by the Mobility Department. Including, public input process, referendum process, breakdown of survey respondents by age and senior representation during decision making process.
 - Mobility Department, Justin Schiber and Kate White and Suzanne Rinfret, Director of Traffic and Parking provided an overview of the Mobility and Parking Departments within the city. Shared different projects occurring in the city and explained full-depth reconstruction or capital projects, annual pavement and maintenance program and quick build programs.
 - The Mobility Department spoke about outreach for each project which includes virtual public meetings, surveys, block walking and flyering, digital promotion and community event tabling.
 - Shared residents can sign up for the Mobility Newsletter at transportation@somervillema.gov

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*Motion made by Daisy Monsalve that information needs to be sent to all residents in the city. Especially those who do not have access to a computer or smartphone. Suggestion made for Mobility to be a guest on Senior Circuit.

- Agenda Item: Handicapped Parking availability and report as to if the current number of handicapped designated spots is adequate to meet demand.
 - Mobility spoke about increasing handicapped parking. Spoke of the increase in metered spaces to encourage and accommodate short-term parking needs.
- Agenda Item: Overview of current regulations regarding motorized bikes and scooters.
 - Discussion surrounding increase in bicyclists and safety for both drivers and riders.

5. Director's Report:

- a. The COA has hired a new social worker, Molly Pagliuca, who will begin working on March 13th. She comes to the city from working at The Department of Children and Families.
- b. Our Intern, Grace Wexler will be concluding her internship at the end of April. She has successfully implemented our Technology Learning Program and Technology Open Hours. This program will be taken over by Molly.
- c. The COA received additional ARPA funding to update furniture at the Ralph and Jenny Center. This will include tables that can fold and be moved more easily along with more accessible seating.
- d. Planning for the Senior Picnic is in its early stages. We are currently vetting locations which will include an indoor/outdoor space and accessible bathrooms.
- e. Board members have been inquiring about a social gathering. Reviewed that this is a public group and a quorum can not meet even socially without first advertising it as a public event. Motion put forth to allow for social time prior to a future board meeting. Motion passed.
- f. Larger events this month include:, March 16th, St. Patrick's Day Celebration and a visit from the Singing Grandpops on March 22nd.
- g. Discussion around agenda items for April meeting and visit with Mayor Ballantyne. Topics include:
 - Soliciting and acting upon input from seniors.
 - Effective Communication
 - Safety within the city

6. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:29pm

7. Next Meeting: April 7, 2023 at 11:00am