

# COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday April 7, 2023

Present: Pina Mingace, Edna Murray, Daisy Monsalve, Ronnit Prawer, Maclise Jean

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: 11:05am

3. Approval of March Minutes

--Minutes approved by Pina Mingace, seconded by Edna Murray

4. New Business: Meeting with Mayor Ballantyne

- Agenda Item 1: Vision Zero proposes a future where there are no injuries or deaths when using our roads. Elders are considered one of the primary populations needing to be protected. How can the city take steps to incorporate our input into that vision?

- The Mayor spoke of striving to have diverse (including older adult) representation across all boards and commissions. Spoke of the importance of hearing from all individuals rather than a select few.
- The Mayor shared about traffic calming measures, including the planting of new trees as they have been shown to have a traffic calming effect. Also spoke about speed humps and the reduction in traffic speed.

- a. Daisey introduced the concern surrounding general safety in the City including lack of lighting in certain areas and the brightness of certain street lights.

- The Mayor spoke about the change to LED lighting throughout the city a number of years back. Spoke about the reception of new lighting in varying neighborhoods and community concerns regarding the effects of lighting in the neighborhood.

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- Agenda Item #2: Agenda Item #2: Significant reduction in city parking has created hardships for both less abled and disabled adults. Replacing resident parking with metered parking also creates inconvenience and financial barriers. Will this be considered in future planning?
    - Board shared about parking concerns at the center. Explored idea of increased signage and changing parking immediately in front of the Center as Senior Center Parking. The Mayor spoke of Mobility working with the community to increase Handicapped parking and metered parking to increase spot availability due to turnover. The Mayor shared that 8 out of 10 cars are traveling to Boston or Cambridge for work and spoke of the strong focus on traffic calming measures.
    - Board spoke about difficulties accessing the metered parking in the Tufts lots.
    - The Board spoke about the difficulty with parking in the new spaces that are removed from the curb.
  - Agenda Item #3: The COA will be doing an extensive survey of Somerville elders to identify services that should be provided by the COA and by the city. In your perspective what questions do you feel are most critical to include in the survey?
    - The Mayor spoke about assisting her elderly father in Somerville. Spoke about wanting the survey to consider if there needs to be additional benches and areas for seniors to stop and rest. Also spoke about the bike path and bus stops.
5. Director's Report:
- a. Spoke about the Somerville Code of Conduct. Members are asked to sign the code and return to the COA Director.
  - b. UMass Center for Gerontology Research will be joining the June meeting.
6. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm
7. Next Meeting: May 5, 2023 at 11:00am