

# COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday May 5, 2023

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

Council on Aging Staff Present: Ashley Speliotis, Natasha Naim, 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. Call to order: 11:00am
2. Approval of March Minutes
  - a. Minutes approved by Pina Mingace, seconded by Neeraj Wadhera.
3. Old Business:
  - a. Review of meeting with the Mayor. Reviewed conversation regarding adequate seating at MBTA stops and working with T vs benches which the City can place on their own in parks, bike path, etc.
4. New Business:
  - a. UMass Center for Gerontology Research is beginning their background research on Somerville to develop our survey. They would like to meet with officials to gather additional information. Discussion surrounding the benefits of UMass speaking with the Police Chief to hear more about senior needs within the community. Discussion was held regarding speaking with the Fire Department, particularly their representative who oversees the senior fire alarm program and the new senior lockbox program.
  - b. Discussion surrounding what members would like to see included in the survey. Neeraj spoke about including demographic information, including diversity represented at the center and how we can increase marketing or ensuring that seniors can receive information even if they don't use a computer. Daisy spoke about the survey including questions about computer and internet access. Pina spoke about the need for better parking and the inclusion of questions to see if we are losing participants due to parking. Marian spoke about how much the survey

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should focus on the City as a whole vs. the COA itself. Neeraj spoke about the survey helping to push forward the main objectives of the COA and Pina shared the survey will be a time to ask seniors what they really want to see at the center and in the city.

5. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm
6. Next Meeting: June 2, 2023 at 11:00am