

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday December 1, 2023

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

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. Call to order: 11:06am
2. Approval of September Minutes
 - a. Minutes approved by Pina Mingace, seconded by Neeraj Wadhera.

3. New Business

Holland Street Parking Lot

- Beginning this month, there will be a new parking plan at the Holland St. Center. COA staff parking will be dedicated to the front lot. There will be the new installation of five dedicated Visitor's Parking Spots in the front lot. A daily permit will be needed and can be obtained at the COA reception desk. Handicapped spots will once again be free to those with handicapped placards.

Ralph and Jenny Senior Center-heat

- Throughout the month of November, the landlord of the Ralph and Jenny Center have been fixing the heating system. Currently it is working only at 65 degrees and is not expected to be fully fixed until January. Plan is to move programming from the Ralph and Jenny Center to the Holland St. Center while continued maintenance is being done.

Terms of Board of Directors

COUNCIL ON AGING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Each term is for 2 years, although terms are scattered. Terms ending on December 31, 2023 are: Daisy Monsalve, Marian Bremer, Ronit Prawer, and Maclise Jean
- Plan is for members to submit a letter of intent to continue or a letter of resignation. Further discussion surrounding recruitment will occur at the January Board Meeting.

Mayor's Holiday Gift

- This year's holiday gift is a thermal mug, packet of tea, cocoa, and cookies.
- Staff will be packing gifts throughout December and distributed at the COA Holiday Party and to over 1,600 residents of senior housing. Somerville Police and Somerville Housing Authority will help to distribute the gifts as well.
- Board members can assist with gift packing on December 8, 2023.

Senior Community Survey

- UMass closed the Senior Survey on December 1, 2023. This is a slightly longer deadline than the mid-November date they were considering. UMass reports they have received enough completed surveys for the findings to be statistically significant.
- Results will be presented in May or June of 2024.

Mayor's Senior Picnic

- Board members enjoyed the new location and would like to host the picnic there in the future, although some would consider an indoor location. The lunches and gifts were well received by community members.

4. Director's Report

- Two Covid Clinics will be held during the month of December. These clinics will be staffed by The City of Somerville, Department of Public Health.
- The Community Police Unit has been reinstated and will assist at different events geared towards children and seniors.
- The COA Social Work team has received a grant from the MCOA to restart the COA Memory Café, a safe location for socialization for those with cognitive decline and their caretakers.

5. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:04pm

6. Next Meeting: January 5, 2024 at 11:00am