

## **COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2021**

**Stoughton Room, Stoughton Area Senior Center**

**Present:** Cathy Christman, Roz Gausman, Lou Havlik, Bob McGeever, Mary Onsager, Jeanne Schwass-Long, David Sharpe, Susan Wollin

**Staff Present:** Cindy McGlynn, Hollee Camacho

**Guests Present:** Jenney Britain, Lisa Resch, Mayor Tim Swadley, Karla Zentmire

**Absent & Excused:** Bob Barnett, Sid Boersma, Barb Manson, Faith Schuck

**Call to order:** L. Havlik called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM.

**December Minutes:** Moved by B. McGeever, S. Wollin seconded to approve; passed unanimously.

### **Comments by Director:**

- Our staff continue to trudge through. Many of our participants continue to struggle with life changes, loneliness and mental health that have been enhanced during the pandemic. In addition to our ongoing case management, home delivered meals, meal pick-up events and online programming, we recently offered a drive thru cocoa and cookie/volunteer treat pick-up event.
- We are working with the County to understand and assist with Public Health's suggestions for vaccination distribution.

**Re-Opening Status:** We have no plans for reopening until Public Health says we can do so. We are hopeful for that to happen as soon as possible.

### **Annex Update:**

- Guests J. Britain, L. Resch and K. Zentmire introduced themselves as annex tenants and asked questions of the COA, C. McGlynn and Mayor Swadley. The following are questions that were raised of the latest annex rationale report and discussion that proceeded:
  - Why isn't the Youth Center an option when kids are in school during the day? We've been told by YC staff that their large upstairs space is being utilized during the day. Also discussed that the building does not provide much nearby parking.
  - Why didn't the survey results mention exercise on the most popular programs' list or why weren't they included in suggestions for new programming? Increasing fitness offerings is a goal that comes up continually in our accreditation and strategic planning and our regular participants are well aware of the space constraints so likely didn't include because they know the obstacles we face.
  - What is the anticipated timing for regaining the annex? This is just the beginning of the planning. We know there is a long process ahead for the City to review. And

should they approve, it will take a year or more for us to fundraise for the estimated \$150,000 renovation costs.

- How will you cover the cost of additional staff? Our staff won't change.
- C. McGlynn emphasized there is no ill-will; all of your businesses provide great services and we have been good neighbors for years. We have required more space to provide our services for many years and our older adult population is increasing. It makes sense for us to request the space next door that the City already owns because purchasing a new building is out of our budget.
- Mayor Swadley highlighted that the City is not receiving market rates in their annex rentals, there are many expenses to maintaining including utility costs the City has had to absorb. He thanked all for the discussion and said it will help in making an informed decision.
- B. McGeever added when the City acquired the building it had always been the plan to expand the Senior Center to the annex. It was one of the reasons they chose the space to grow into. The Police Department is a similar story as they used to rent space to the County.

**COA Self-Evaluation:** Commission discussed the draft. C. McGlynn made suggestions to add questions: "As a commission member, I feel comfortable with my understanding of the goals and purposes of the Senior Center," and "What additional resources would be helpful to have to assist my role as a contributing member of the COA?" The survey will be made on a Google Form and the COA Bylaws will be sent along with it. Cindy stressed members to be honest with their feedback. If there are things about the Center or your role that is not understood please note it.

**Committee Reports:** No committees have met.

**Legislative Update:**

- S. Wollin asked how she can help with advocating for the Center with her Township. Cindy encourages members to share their perspective with residents and Town boards. R. Gausman added one could write a letter to the editor of the Hub or township newsletters.
- Cindy shared that of the five surrounding townships, one township has decreased its financial contribution to the Center and one has eliminated its altogether.
- The Finance Committee is meeting tonight to discuss our rationale report for acquiring the annex. Cindy will communicate if any decisions are made.

**Remaining Remarks:** B. McGeever added that the City does not own the Youth Center; they must ask the building owner for permission to hold non-youth activities in it.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Moved by D. Sharpe and seconded by R. Gausman to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 AM.

**Next Meeting via Zoom: Tuesday, February 2, 2020 at 11:00 AM**