

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Stoughton Room, Stoughton Area Senior Center

Present: Bob Barnett, Sid Boersma, Cathy Christman, Lou Havlik, Barb Manson, Bob McGeever, Mary Onsager, Faith Schuck, Jeanne Schwass-Long, David Sharpe

Staff Present: Cindy McGlynn, Hollee Camacho

Absent & Excused: Roz Gausman, Susan Wollin

Call to order: L. Havlik called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

July Minutes: Moved by B. McGeever, F. Schuck seconded to approve; passed unanimously.

Welcome & Introductions: We welcome our newest COA member Cathy Christman!

Comments by Director:

- Main St. is still under construction. The Main/Page intersection will be closed next week.
- The riprap along the river was completed last week.
- We are tentatively planning a Brat & Chose's Coney Sauce carryout and delivery event for September 2.
- Staff are working productively both in-house and from their homes.
- We are fortunate to have Amy Lambright-Murphy on board. She is doing a fantastic job of finding a good variety of online programming. It has been a goal for many years for us to better connect with our homebound populations, and our current situation is forcing us to jump into it. Once we are able to open to the public we will need to find a balance to be able to continue both onsite and in-home programming opportunities.
- The case managers are continuing to work hard and creatively to assist people safely. Most connections they make are over the phone, but have made some socially-distanced exchanges. They've run into some difficult client situations and handled them really well.
- We are back to serving meals five days a week. This has given meal recipients more meal variety, a return to seeing familiar drivers, and even gave some a false sense of safety. This week we gave reminders to all drivers and participants of our "contact-free" policies – stressing that because we don't know who has COVID-19, we must assume everyone does.
- S. Boersma stressed how important the home delivered meals program is not only for the food, but also for the social engagement. Cindy stressed that the connections are still being made to visit and ensure recipients' safety --they now must be done at a safe distance.
- D. Sharpe questioned how we are advertising our online activities. They are noted on our website, Facebook page, the newsletter and in emails. Paper copies of the newsletter are being given during our Thursday meal pickups and are in a box for free pickup at our front entrance. D. Sharpe suggests that more notice of our online offerings could be made on our outdoor sign and in the Courier Hub.

Re-Opening Status: We will open as soon as it is safe to do so. We wish we could give a date.

Committee Reports: No committees have met since March.

- H. Camacho sent members the current listing of committee assignments along with the remaining action plans. Cindy confirmed that she hadn't heard that anyone wanted to change committees. Cathy Christman is assigned to the Program Committee.
- Within the next month staff will be touching base with committees by email and/or to initiate meetings via Zoom.
- Committees will be tasked to look over and prioritize the action plans. We know some actions we can begin work on now, but realize some will have to wait until we're open to the public. The real priorities Cindy sees now are:
 - Fund Development: While the use of the Annex is still just up for discussion for 2021's Budget, we should begin discussion at the Center's level for what specific activities we intend to use the space for and how to fund reconstruction.
 - Evaluation: Assist with determining participants' needs.
 - Program: Assist with determining activities that are best suited for the annex.
- S. Boersma says he supports the Center's request for the annex. He sees that at a time of tight budgets it's an obvious way to expand space and parking. He encouraged Cindy to talk with City Council directly and early in the process. Cindy agreed and intends to request to speak with the Council once we have a plan showing how the space will specifically address our needs and biggest obstacles. S. Boersma offered to help facilitate the meeting and L. Havlik offered to accompany Cindy at the meeting.

Legislative Update:

- The County has announced a 5% cut to all departments including Human Services. There is no news about how that may affect our case management, meal or transportation services. Case management funding is the most precarious amount as it comes from local tax dollars, whereas most meals and transportation comes from federal Older Americans Act.
- The City just completed the CIP Budget and will begin work on the City's 2021 operational budget in August. Cindy believes the 2021 Budget will be conservative and expresses more concern for 2022's.
- Cindy has not requested new staff positions for 2021 --not because they're not needed but because she believes the City's first priority should be to "right-size" current staff. She and S. Boersma explained that the term refers to the City's commitment to a process that assures staff are paid appropriately in comparison to their experience and the pay grade of similar positions at other City's, County's and agencies. Cindy explained that in some cases entry-level pay of new hires are close in pay to individuals who have been employed with the City for ten or more years. There is concern for the loss of these highly-knowledgeable employees in search of a more equitable income.

Questions:

- In regards to parking, L. Havlik questioned whether local residents use the Center's parking. Cindy responded she has tried to get signs that parking be reserved to Senior Center participants, but right now it is designated as a public parking lot.

- B. Barnett wondered if the businesses in the annex held annual leases. Cindy responded that she believed so and envisions such a switch over will take a lot of time for approval and fundraising –emphasizing there will be plenty of time to give the current business tenants a heads up.

Meeting Adjourned: Moved by M. Onsager and seconded by D. Sharpe to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:44 AM.

Next Meeting via Zoom: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 11:00 AM