

## Arlington Council on Aging Meeting Minutes, January 21, 2021

**Present:** Michael Quinn, Nancy Cox, Anne Brown, Rick Fentin, Kristine Shah, and Marge Vanderhill, Mary Hung, Jill Greenlee, and Pat Baillieul.  
**Associates:** Mara Klein Collins, Bob Tosi, Paul Raia, and Karen Nichols. Joe Curro: BOS rep. Malcolm Hamilton: ASA rep.

Public meetings are conducted remotely due to the COVID pandemic. This meeting was recorded.

1. Call to order: The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was called to order by Michael Quinn via Zoom at 6:03PM on January 21, 2021.
2. Citizen's open forum: Jennifer Susse
3. Minutes of December 17, 2020, were approved. Rick Fentin so moved and Anne Brown seconded.
4. Executive Director's Report: Kristine Shah
  - a. **Update on Programs and Services**
    - i. 75 Warm Wishes holiday gift bag were delivered by 36 volunteers through the month of December. Bags included personal items, gift items (thanks to a partnership with Maxima) and a \$10 grocery gift card.
    - ii. 28 Chromebooks have been distributed to older adults in town. Hot spots will be distributed in February along with Chromebooks to individuals without internet connection. We are anticipating going through hot spots quickly and are applying for more funding to cover the monthly fees for an additional 20 hotspots.
    - iii. Virtual programs continue to be well attended and are expanding. An 8 week "Brain and Balance" class is being added and our Intergenerational Book Club along with Yarn and Yarn groups are growing each month. We are also completing a puzzle project for the center's reopening.
    - iv. 63 snow removal volunteers are matched with seniors in need and are ready to assist this winter.
    - v. Our newly rejuvenated partnership with ACMi has begun and the COA participated in a news story on vaccine related scams last week. Monthly updates from the COA will begin next month along with consistent weekly content, in addition to recordings of our virtual programming

- vi. Our podiatry clinic is now a regular program at the office of Dr. Dan Seligman. Residents are thrilled that this is back on the monthly menu of services.
- vii. Our February Grab & Go event has been scheduled in partnership with Brightview and will feature a Valentine lunch along with cards created by students from the Thompson School. Future grab & go events will be scheduled in partnership with NEAT, sponsored by Arlington EATS, in an effort to distribute warm meals this winter.
- viii. Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief applications are due by January 31 and the committee is set to meet in early March to decide awards. We have received more applications than last year thanks to our social workers making calls to qualified individuals and assisting them with the applications.

**b. Financial Updates**

- i. Grant Application Updates
  - 1. \$20,000 from MAPC for Taxi/Livery transportation - *awaiting answer*
  - 2. \$10,000 from CHNA 17 - *did not receive*
  - 3. \$11,800 from Lahey/BIDMC Health for Transportation- *received*
  - 4. \$5,000 from Mount Auburn for Hot Spot Monthly Fees- *deadline Feb 8*
  - 5. \$4,000 from Mass Service Alliance for volunteer support- *deadline Feb 5*
- ii. CDBG FY22 applications were submitted by the deadline of 1/15. The COA Submitted proposals for Transportation (\$31,540), Volunteer Coordinator Position (\$52,922) and Adult Day Health scholarships (\$6,000). I will be presenting a midyear update at the Select Board meeting on January 25 and also reviewing these 3 applications.
- iii. Capital Campaign: \$150,000 has been raised so far.
  - 1. A small ask was made at the end of December and over \$16,000 was received toward the capital campaign.
  - 2. We will be combining a construction update and fundraising ask through a small mailing in the spring to

support the capital campaign. Ted Trevens from DSA will be assisting with this project.

**c. Other**

- i. Our first Dementia Friendly Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 1/28 and two reps from MCOA will be joining us along with our 4 board members.
- ii. AARP has extended our deadline for receiving our Age Friendly action plan until June. There is a model we can follow to submit one for both Age and Dementia Friendly programs at the same time so we will be exploring that.
- iii. At this point in time, AARP is not offering tax appointments for this year. We are keeping a log of residents who rely on this service each year and plan to update them in a few months on the status of our assistance offerings at that point.
- iv. COA Staff are a large part in supporting town COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics. Six hundred doses were given at First Responder clinics last week and vaccine has been ordered for AHA building residents and home care workers. We are assisting the Board of Health in answering and returning phone calls and requests from the community regarding vaccine updates. If you are interested in volunteering at any upcoming vaccine clinics, please reach out to me.

5. Report of the Chair: Tax prep is currently on hold.

6. Minuteman Senior Services: Marge

A. Kelly Magee Wright, ED, shared a mission moment with the Board, which emphasized the importance of safety checks. A Meals on Wheels driver noticed a strong smell of gas in the home. Following procedure, she asked the senior to sit in her car while she dialed 911.

B. Auditors from the Daniel Dennis and Co presented the FY20 Audit results for MSS.

C. MSS have contracted with a new insurer for a health care following a 20% jump in rates by BCBS.

D. ED report: Discussed were the national work force shortage in direct care, under spending in home care programs, and timeliness with bill paying. The EOE has not kept up with increased costs, so a petition is underway to the state that it meets its statutory responsibility and considers the reasonable cost of new government mandates to social services providers.

E. Bob Tosi presented a legislative reward to Senator Friedman for her advocacy for seniors.

7. ASA: Malcolm mentioned H&R Block offers discounts to Harvard retirees for tax prep. Claire Foley will take over as President and Joanne Morel as VP.

8. Old Business: Two board candidates were interviewed and will be approved at the BOS meeting. One will fill Paul's seat and Marge's term expires June 2021.
9. New Business: Joe Curro mentioned the William James Interface Referral Service operates a hot line for those with mental health issues. His term on the BOS ends April 10.
10. Motion to adjourn at 6:50pm, Jill so moved and Anne seconded.