



Arlington Council on Aging

Minutes

Date: Thursday May 16, 2024 Time: 6:00 pm

Location: This meeting was conducted in a hybrid format.

Present: Kristine S., Pat B., Nancy C., Anne B., Sherry G., Melissa M., Mary H., Karen N., Marge V.

Citizens: Marie R., Margaret I.

The Council's primary responsibilities are to design, promote, and implement programs and services to address the needs of the community's elder population, and to coordinate existing services in the community.

1. Call to Order- *Nancy Cox agreed to chair this meeting in Michael Quinn's absence. Called to order 6:01pm*
2. Minutes of the March & April 2024 meeting for approval – *Anne Brown moved to approve both March & April Minutes, Sherry Graham seconded, unanimous approval vote.*
3. Citizen's Open Forum- *none*
4. Report: Executive Director
 - a. *Elevator Project- Update & Timeline – Kristine Reported project is on schedule to be completed by June 1*
 - b. *Programs/Activities Update:*
 - i. *Summer Intern, Tech Help beginning May 20*
 - ii. *Lahey Farm Share beginning June 18*
 - iii. *Wait Lists for Some Weekly Programs*
 - iv. *Volunteer Appreciation Brunch Highlights*
 - v. *New COA Financial Advisor Volunteer, will invite to June meeting*
 - vi. *Arlington Heights Spring Festival COA Table, May 18, 2pm-5pm*
 - c. *Transportation*
 - i. *6th van driver has returned.*
 - d. *CDBG Funding for FY25 Approved for Transportation & Transportation Coordinator, also for Adult Day Health scholarships*
 - e. *Arlington Housing Authority Arpa Funds for Transportation Possibility*

f. *Grants*

- i. *Additional Funds from MCOA*
- ii. *Good news re: Formula Grant for FY25, increase to \$15 per age 60+ resident, thank you if you helped advocate!*

g. *Sevoyan Personal Needs and Sevoyan Dental Fund Distribution Approval Request*

- i. *The Board of Commissioners for Trust Funds has previously recommended 3.5-7% of the fund be available for annual expenditures from the Sevoyan Charitable Trust. The Trust fund balance as of March 31, 2024 was \$325,340 (3.5%-7% = \$11,386- \$22,773) Rockland Trust is the Investment Advisory Services vendor for Trust.*

ii. **FY25 Requests (to be transferred after July 1, 2024 in FY25):**

1. ***Sevoyan Dental; Request: \$8,000*** *In FY24, the Sevoyan Dental fund served 18 older adults with over \$7,000 in dental expense assistance. The current fund balance is \$1,230. The requested amount would allow us to assist 19 seniors with an average of \$500 dental assistance in FY25. COA Social Workers have been seeing the rising cost of dental bills and we have numerous seniors asking us for assistance in paying bills that are well over \$1,000 for one necessary procedure. We utilize this fund in conjunction with other local funds and grants to help those most in need.*
2. ***Sevoyan Personal Needs; Request: \$13,773*** *Many older adults exhaust all personal funds and expendable income on rent/mortgage and food. The Sevoyan Personal Needs fund is used for older adults to purchase items that they desperately need, including safety equipment for their home, personal care items, household items and crucial furniture. COA Social Workers request financial assistance from this fund for Arlington residents age 60+. There is a \$300 max benefit, per person, per year. In FY24 36 individuals received \$300 assistance from this fund until the fund was exhausted in March 2024 and we have relied on funds from our emergency fund since then. The current fund balance is \$0. \$13,773 will allow us to assist 45 people at \$300 per person this fiscal year.*

- iii. *Board Vote Mary Hung Motioned to approve total amount to transfer of: \$21,773. Anne Brown seconded the motion and the board voted to approve unanimously.*

h. *Board Member Recruitment Update*

- i. *Last call for new board member applicants*

5. Report: Chair - *none*
6. Report: Minuteman Senior Services – *Marge Reported that funding from the state has been arriving at MMSS later and later each year and MMSS volunteers and staff are trying to communicate the issue in the hopes of improving for the future. MMSS is also advocating for various state fund line items that were not approved for the final version of the state topic. Board Members should reach out to local state reps & senators if they would like to advocate for MMSS priorities. MMSS is also advocating for family members to be paid as caregivers since there is such a shortage of caregiver staff.*
7. Old Business - *None*
8. New Business - *None*
9. Other Community Announcements – *None. Nancy Cox shared her experiences on the COA Board through the past 6 years and encouraged staff and new volunteers to keep advocating for the older adult population.*
10. Adjourn - **Next meeting: June 20, 2024 (last meeting until September)-** *Mary Hung motioned, Sherry Graham seconded, unanimous approval.*