

Minutes of COA Board Meeting Tuesday, September 13, 2022 – Via Zoom

Board Members Present: Stephanie Becker-Stone, Lois Carra, Jennifer Chisholm, Kathy Dalton, Mary DeCoursey, Peal Hines, Lily Owyang, Eva Paddock, and Beverly Sealey.

Guests/Public: Debra Mandel and Harriet Ahouse

Staff Present: Alicia Johnson, Vincent McCarthy, and Susan Pacheco

Call to Order – President Owyang called meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Review/Acceptance of minutes: Motion made by Kathy Dalton, seconded by Lois Carra. Minutes unanimously approved.

Executive Director – Susan Pacheco

- New City Manager was sworn in on 9/6/22. He has several scheduled “Meet and Greet” sessions for staff through November. ED is scheduled to attend session on 9/22.
- The Registry of Motor Vehicles will be presenting via Zoom on 9/14/22 @ 1:00 p.m. This subject of the presentation: The REAL ID. COA Staff will inform attendees that COA staff can assist in reviewing documents and assisting in scheduling the appointments.
- ED presented on the City’s new Telework policy. Discussion regarding staff and specifics for instructors doing virtual programming.
- ED discussed ongoing challenges of staffing the North Cambridge Senior Center and Cambridge Senior Center kitchen.
- COA Leadership Team continues to work with Ora Grodsky and Sue Walsh, Assistant Director, Adult and Family Services regarding strategic planning. ED will report at future meeting on Strategic Planning efforts.

COA Activities Team – Alicia Johnson

During the summer, the Activities Team re-introduced day trips, which have been popular and well attended. Also, successful interdepartmental collaborations continue.

Trips:

- Monday July 11th Charlesgate Yacht Club
- Thursday August 25th Rockport
- Thursday September 22nd Spirit of Boston

Collaborations:

Healthy Aging & Cycling Series: A collaboration between the Council on Aging and Community Development Department.

The series has moved to the next phase of the series, On-Bike Skills Clinics and Group Rides. The group meets every Wednesday morning beginning at 8am at Danehy Park.

Music Jam Sessions: A collaboration between the Council on Aging, Public Health Department and Bobby Tynes (Cambridge Public Schools) and his all-star ensemble of musicians.

The summer series consisted of four Music Jam Sessions, which encourages participants with musical experience ranging from “little to none or very experienced” to participate.

Participants could use the instruments provided by the Senior Center or bring their own.

We are pleased to announce that the COA is working on continuing the Music Jam Sessions for

A Fall series.



Alicia requested feed back from members about this presentation style. It was agreed that Alicia would continue to provide information regarding the Centers' Activities in this format.

Suggestions for various trips, as well as intergenerational programming – CRLS students (musicians).

Client Services – Vincent McCarthy

Veterans and Friends Support Group

Wednesday, September 14th from 1pm – 2pm. This group will be held in the Kitchen Classroom on the 2nd floor. This group will be facilitated by Dee Cannon, Outreach Case Manager. This is an ongoing group that will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Men's Group - Tuesday, September 20th @ 10am – 11:30am

Our monthly Men's Group continues to be well attended. The group will meet on the third Tuesday of each month.

Consumers' Council - Thursday, September 22nd from 11am – 12:30pm

Laura Nichols, Executive Director of The Cambridge Consumers' Council will be at the Cambridge Council on Aging on Thursday, September 22nd to meet with seniors. This is an ongoing meeting that will take place on the 4th Thursday of every month

On Saturday, September 17th from 9:30am – 1pm Consumers' Council is sponsoring will be sponsoring SHRED DAY in front of 806 Massachusetts Avenue

September – Film & Discussion - Tuesday, September 27th @ 1pm

The United States vs. Billie Holiday is a 2021 American [biographical drama](#) film about singer [Billie Holiday](#), based on the book [Chasing the Scream](#). The film follows Holiday during her career as she is targeted by the Federal Department of Narcotics with an undercover sting operation.

Rated R – running time 2hr. 10min.

This is an ongoing meeting that will take place on the 4th Thursday of every month.

Cambridge Inspectional Services

The Council on Aging often receives calls from seniors who are looking to hire professionals to perform various tasks in their home.

Vincent has been working with Cambridge Inspectional Services to compile lists of local companies that can be hired to perform service-related tasks. It is our goal to compile lists for service professionals including electricians, plumbers (heating and A&C) exterminators, handyman services and general contractors. These lists will be available to seniors as a courtesy and the COA will not endorse or recommend any individual companies.

There was an extensive discussion regarding this topic. More will be updated at future meetings.

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

Vincent has been asked to be part of the interview committee for a new part time position through the Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission and has been reviewing applications. Interviews will start the week of 9/6/22. We are very excited about this new position and look forward to working closely with the Commission and the new LGBTQ+ Programming Leader. We plan to collaborate on LGBTQ+ programming here at the Senior Center in the very near future.

The LGBTQ+ Programming Leader will be a new position, under the direction of the Executive Director of the Cambridge Human Rights Commission/Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission. This position will develop and implement new LGBTQ+ centered programming for the City's Senior and Youth Centers. The LGBTQ+ Programming Leader will also collaborate with Youth Center staff and Senior Center staff to support and strengthen the LGBTQ+-inclusivity of existing City programs

Old Business: None

New Business:

- James Bennett has resigned from the Board. ED received interest for perspective Board members via Cambridge Volunteer Clearinghouse. However, at this time new appointments are not being made. City Manager's office will notify Boards and Commissions as to when appointments will be made again.

Eva Paddock motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Lois Carra. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 @ 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Pacheco