

## **Minutes of COA Board Meeting Tuesday, October 11, 2022 – Via Zoom**

**Board Members Present:** Stephanie Becker-Stone, Lois Carra, Kathy Dalton, Pearl Hines, Lily Owyang and Eva Paddock.

**Board Members Absent:** Jennifer Chisholm, Mary DeCoursey, Beverly Sealey.

**Guests/Public:** Harriet Ahouse, Irene Carmen and Debra Mandel

**Staff Present:** Lisa Castagna, Alicia Johnson, Vincent McCarthy, and Susan Pacheco

**Call to Order** – President Owyang called meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

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

### **Executive Director – Susan Pacheco**

ED introduced members of the public in attendance.

10/14/22 – Cambridge Senior Center will host Cambridge Public Health's COVID/Flu Vaccine Clinic 10-2 MA Council on Aging (MCOA) Annual Fall conference will be in person, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time since 2019. Conference is in Falmouth, MA (10/19-10/21/22).

Good news! – COA's EOEI Formula Grant is being increased. After much advocacy by MCOA Board and Membership, COAs will be reimbursed using census data from UMass Donahue Institute. Previously using 2010 US Census. Cambridge census of residents age 60+ - 14,530 - @ \$12/elder – total grant amount \$174,360. Given that 2020 Census still not available, the UMass data will be 18,178 - @ \$12/elder – total grant amount will now be \$218,136.

### **COA Activities Team – Alicia Johnson**

New ESOL/Chinese class begins every Monday 9:30am-10:30am

New Tech Help in Chinese every 4th Tuesday 10:30am-11:30am Will be taught in Mandarin and Cantonese  
Boston Symphony Orchestra performed a chamber concert on Sunday October 2nd. The event was open to the public

Day trip to Old Mill restaurant and Verrill Farm on Oct 13th

Cambridge Public Health Dept Flu and Covid vaccine clinic at the senior center On Oct 14th

27th Anniversary party on Oct 27th. Lunch catered by S&S restaurant and entertainment provided by J Rich DiMare. DJ Rich DiMare volunteered his time to the senior center. Party signup filled in 48 hours.

### **Client Services – Vincent McCarthy**

Luncheon at Wusong Road Wednesday, October 12th. The owner of a new restaurant in Harvard Square, Wusong Road, reached out to the COA to express interest in the Veterans Support Group and to invite the group to the restaurant for lunch. Dee Cannon and members of the Veterans Support Group are very much looking forward to this outing. We greatly appreciate the generosity and support of Wusong Road!

Prescription Drug Take-Back Event Monday, October 17th from 1pm – 3pm at Cambridge Senior Center  
The COA in collaboration with the Cambridge Public Health Department & Cambridge Police Department will be holding a Prescription Drug Take-Back Event on Monday, October 17th from 1pm – 3pm. Bring your unused or expired prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and vitamins to this special medication “take-back” event so they will be disposed of safely.

Men's Group - Tuesday, October 18th @ 10am – 11:30am

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

October – Film & Discussion – October 25th @ 1pm

ELVIS The film explores the life and music of Elvis Presley (Austin Butler), seen through the prism of his complicated relationship with his enigmatic manager, Colonel Tom Parker (Tom Hanks).

Consumers' Council - Thursday, October 27th from 11am – 12:30pm

Laura Nichols, Executive Director of The Cambridge Consumers' Council will be at the Cambridge Council on Aging on Thursday, October 27th to meet with seniors. This is an ongoing meeting that will take place on the 4th Thursday of every month

Inspectional Services & Building Commissioner

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 and the office of the Building Commissioner to see how we can best address these issues. Also, in the near future, Assistant Building Commissioner, Peter McLaughlin, will be conducting a presentation for our participants on topics including permits, contractors, laws and regulations and how to protective yourself from being taken advantage of while having work done on your home.

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 started on 9/6/22 and will continue into October.

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:** None

Kathy Dalton motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Lois Carra. Meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 8th, 2022 @ 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Lisa Castagna and Susan Pacheco