

## Minutes of COA Board Meeting November 9th, 2021

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

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

**Call to Order** – President Owyang called meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

Welcome to new Board Members!

**Review/Acceptance of minutes:** Minutes seconded by Eva Paddock and Jennifer Chisholm.

### Executive Director – Susan Pacheco

- Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) Formula Grant has yet to be posted. Review of EOEA Grant was done for the benefit of new Board Members. Total funding expected: \$174,360. Based on 2010 census of residents age 60+ (14,530) x \$12/elder. There have been delays in past years, but this has been the latest.
- We are in the process of interviewing for the Senior Center Director position. Interview Committee interviewed 5 applicants. Decision should be made by week's end. ED will notify Board when hire recommendation is made.
- ED meeting with COA Friends on 11/9/21. This will be the final meeting of the Friends. Dissolution is in process. ED will report at December meeting as to final disbursement of funds.
- ED discussed City's Indoor Mask Ordinance. ED shared issue that arose regarding a participant not wearing a mask due to cited medical issues. ED met with City Leadership and Cambridge Public Health Department. Discussion of ways to accommodate non-wearing mask participant. Many factors are considered. Size of room activity is taking place in; # of participants; square footage spacing between participants; type of activity (high vs. low impact fitness); # of room filters. All of these are taken into consideration. ED is able to report that non-wearing mask participant is actively participating and enjoying dance class.

### COA Activities Team – Alicia Johnson

- Virtual classes continue to be well attended and two classes successfully launched as hybrid. The instructor purchased his own equipment to use at both senior centers. Dancing for Balance Class Mondays at the NCSC and Line Dancing Class Mondays at the Cambridge Senior Center
- The Book Group continues to meet successfully as a hybrid class.
- An advantage to offering virtual classes allowed our watercolors instructor to teach her class on Wednesday 11/10/21 as an alternative, since a holiday fell on her regular teaching day.
- The Billiards room, which is open Monday-Thursday, will now be open on Fridays as well from 8:30am-11:00am.

Upcoming programming and information regarding Covid vaccine boosters.

- Monday 11/15/21 Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences FASCO (Faculty and Student Community Outreach) will present on Zoom an educational session about vaccines and the Covid-19 booster shots.
- Monday 11/15/21 and Tuesday 11/16/21 Senior Day Covid Booster Clinic at the Cambridge Health Alliance next to The Somerville Target. Somerville Cambridge Elder Services is offering \$25 Target gift cards to those who pre-register and are

60+. SCES is also offering rides to the Covid Booster clinic to Somerville and Cambridge residents. All three vaccine boosters will be available at the clinic and are free.

- Thursday 11/18/21 Mass office of Disability will do an Emergency Preparedness workshop at the Cambridge Senior Center. Emergency Go Bags will be given to those in attendance.
- Cartoons Connecting Communities will continue and will be featured in the weekly email alert.
- The David Fichter mural at the NCSC, painted in 1986, will undergo restoration work due to wear and tear and damage incurred during renovations at Russell Apartments.

The Cambridge Arts Council is leading this charge and a conservationist has assessed the damage and quoted the Arts Council a cost of \$4,000-\$5,000 to complete the work. The cost of restoration will be split between the Arts Council and the Human Services Department.

Board members have inquired and asked the following questions that will need to be followed up with the Arts Council.

1. Since this is an indoor mural, can an acrylic overlay be placed on the mural to protect it from future damage?
2. Is the restoration work guaranteed once the mural is restored?

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

- Medicare Open Enrollment Period begins October 15th and runs through December 7th. Thanks to Maryellen McEleney and Lisa Castagna for help with SHINE.
- In person Men's Group meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 16th at 10am.
- Vincent has received many calls of concern. Individuals in decline, not able to care for themselves. Possible hoarding exploration.

#### **Old Business**

- Windsor House created the basement tile piece. It is not maintained by the Arts Council.

#### **New Business**

- The Warming Center will reopen on December 1st
- Bay Cove contracted with the city to run the Warming Center. Pre-Covid 49 individuals; now maximum number of guests is 30. December 1st through May 2nd.
- DPW prepared the space for COA use, new offices, and closets. Will be used when Warming Center ends their season and increase of in-person activity resumes for the COA.

Mary DeCoursey and Beverly Sealey motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Castagna and Susan Pacheco.