

Ashland Council on Aging

Minutes

April 8, 2021

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM by Chairperson Alexis Christopher.

Board Members:

Present: Alexis Christopher, Jean Delouchry, Diane Hansen, Sara Perkett, Jim Zebrowski

Absent: Joanne Fahy, Carol Love

Guests: Sgt. Ed Burman (COVID-19 response coordinator), Joanne Duffy (Director, Senior Center), Patrick McHale, Steve Mitchell (Select Board), Bruce Scotland, Lisa Uglialoro, Ana Vladimirov (Activity & Volunteer Coordinator), Candi Wilson (Outreach Coordinator)

Mission Statement: read by Jean.

Citizen Participation:

Patrick McHale said that he was attending to see how the council functions and what the expectations are.

Lisa Uglialoro said that she, too, was interested to see how the council worked and what the time commitment would be.

Secretary's Minutes:

Sara moved to approve the February 2021 minutes. Jean seconded the motion. Approved 5-0-0.

Director's Report:

Joanne announced that they will be unlocking the building at the beginning of May.

Volunteers will be needed to greet visitors, make sure masks are worn, hand sanitizer is used, and everyone signs in. Stylus pens will be used to check in. The system will time each visit (limited to 90 minutes) and track contacts. After each person leaves, the space they used will be sanitized. All windows will be open. Participants will be required to pre-register for all programs.

In-person meals will start on May 10th. Pre-payment will be required. To-Go meals will continue to be offered.

Some instructors are not ready to return. Exercise classes will be limited to 10 participants.

Two of the four garden beds will be "In Memory Of". Joanne Fahy is interested in gardening in the new beds.

Movies will resume. Ana will arrange for newer movies.

Sara asked why people will need to remain six feet apart. Ed Burman said it is in case someone coughs.

Alexis asked whether one will be able to return to the building ten minutes after your 90 minutes are up. The response was that other people should be given the opportunity to enter the building.

Jim asked whether the Senior Center had considered requiring vaccinations. Ed Burman said that private entities can require vaccinations, but at this point public buildings must be open to all. The question is under consideration at the state level.

Sara asked why spaces need to be sanitized when we know that the virus is primarily spread through the air. Ed Burman said that if someone coughs and a surface remains wet, the virus can be spread.

Ed Burman said that it isn't permissible to ask a person whether they have been vaccinated. You may offer help in becoming vaccinated. He said that the total number of Ashland residents age 65 and above who are fully vaccinated is 1, 741. The number of residents age 60 and above who are fully vaccinated is 2,097.

A regional cooperative mass vaccination site was approved two weeks ago. It will be located in the DoubleTree Hotel in Westborough. When the site opens, the Senior Center will be given a link to register for vaccinations.

The council will be permitted to meet for more than 90 minutes.

Pat McHale asked whether technical classes (e.g., how to use facetime) will be offered. Ana is planning to resume classes, which will include social media.

The interior of the Community Center will be painted later this month, possibly extending into early May.

The elevator didn't pass state inspection, so it remains out of use.

Candi has received Amazon Fires for seniors with limited incomes. A total of 20 Fires and six iPads will be received. Candi and Ana will offer training.

The winner of the short story contest has been chosen. The prize is an illustrated copy of the story. The contest was promoted on the Senior Center Facebook page and the Ashland Mass Happy Board Facebook page.

Steve announced that our new library director will start next week.

Sara made a motion to approve the Director's Report, Diane seconded. The motion was approved 5-0-0.

Old Business:

Ashland Website COA Page: Joanne D. and Alexis are working on getting the mission statement onto the web page.

New Business:

Open positions – discussion with applicants: Lisa Uglialoro inquired about the time commitment. We meet once a month for two hours maximum. Most work is done during the monthly meeting. She also asked whether we were seeking any areas of expertise to complement the current board. We have a wide range of backgrounds, so we aren't looking for any particular skill set. Both Lisa and Pat expressed

interest in joining the council. Jim made a motion to accept both candidates. Jean seconded the motion. Approved 5-0-0.

Weekly Tip or Cheat Sheets Relating to Technology: Ana said that she can put together a couple of tips each week and can do an eBlast, too. Candi is creating visual aids (screenshots with arrows), which will be available to all. Lisa suggested offering training for smart phones, too. Pat asked whether we can offer financial training, particularly budgeting within a fixed income. Joanne D. said that BayPath's Money Management program is the best way. People don't come in for budget training. Pat said that he would considering one-on-one counseling.

Our May meeting will be in person at the Senior Center.

The Lions haven't been able to fundraise, so they're not prepared to discuss breakfasts, yet. We could do them on our own. The Greater Ashland Lions, however, are sponsoring an April 12th luncheon for up to 50 people.

Steve mentioned that the Public Safety Building is in full construction mode. The town is working with the utility companies on the downtown project, which might start in June.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 am.

Submitted by Secretary

Jim Zebrowski

Documents distributed:

February 2021 minutes

Director's Report

Talent Bank forms