Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC)
Advisory Council (AC) Meeting Minutes (DRAFT 2)
Online Zoom Session: June 16, 2020 (4:00 – 5:30 pm)

NOTE: In a normal (non-pandemic) year, MSAC would hold three June 16 meetings – the final meeting of AC members who served for the fiscal year ending June 30, followed by the annual MSAC membership meeting when results of the springtime AC election process are announced, followed by a brief meeting of the new AC for the fiscal year starting July 1. The 2020 coronavirus outbreak resulted in suspension of the annual election process and membership meeting.

Advisory Council (AC) members present: Chair Bob Barrett, Mary Alice Bisbee, Mary Carlson, Barbara Dall, Liz Dodd, Dianne Maccario, Laura Morse and Suzi Swanson. Absent: Bill Doelger and Fran Krushenick. The quorum requirement (6) was met.

Others present: MSAC Director Janna Clar, Assistant City Manager Cameron Niedermayer, and AC candidates Renea Bordeau and Robert Youngberg.

Action on AC Meeting Minutes:
• Janna presented draft minutes of the May 11, 2020 meeting. Corrections were made to the heading's meeting date, the AC attendance list, and a typo in the second line of the "other business and discussion" segment. The AC voted to accept the minutes with those amendments.

Discussions:
• AC Candidate Conversation: Robert Youngberg is retired from extensive work as a public librarian, lives in Montpelier with his wife Elizabeth, was in the Navy and has a BA in American History. He already participates in MSAC programs, is active in the local American Legion and area churches, and is experienced in committee work. Also present was Renea Bordeau, who discussed her interest in serving on the AC with AC members at the May 11 meeting.

• AC Vacancy Appointments: Liz Dodd is leaving the AC after serving the max of six consecutive years, and Fran Krushenick had chosen not to seek another term when hers expires this month. In March, Mary Carlson had submitted information seeking an additional term (AC terms are now 2 years instead of 3). Mary, Renea and Robert were digitally exiled to a Zoom "waiting room" to allow the other AC members to discuss and vote on their candidacies in private, and all three individuals were appointed to serve on the AC through June of 2022.

• Reopening MSAC: Janna has met with State officials (Dept. of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living/DAIL and Health Department/VDH) and shared with AC members draft editions of protocols for VT senior centers. Reopening is not expected for months and would occur in phases. For example, since foot care and tax clinics are high priority, they would be part of Phase I, while congregate meals would be in a later phase. MSAC is now calculating the number of appropriately distanced people who could fit into MSAC rooms. Staff were furloughed until August, except for Norma Maurice, who now also serves as MSAC Health Officer. Janna may need to take some time off to address family needs. Given the time staff needs to organize, promote and fill classes, it unlikely any "normal" class schedule would start before late fall. MSAC may need to reduce some class sizes and stagger class start times to minimize crowding and adhere to CDC and VDH guidelines. The Program Committee should meet in July to discuss plans for fall programming, including the availability of instructors and feasibility of online classes for both members and instructors.
• **Budget and Other Issues:** Cameron described the City's budget scenario as "bleak", noting the hiring freeze, no staff cost-of-living increases, and uncertainty about the availability of state or federal Covid-19 support for municipalities. AC members suggested the City explore possible of liability insurance premium discounts since the pandemic has radically shrunk usage of vehicles and space. Janna is in touch with the Village Network and negotiating the new FEAST contract. She reported that a Central VT Council on Aging (CVCOA) grant of up to $5,000 is helping MSAC procure 2000 free frozen meals and double FEAST meal subsidies for three months this spring/summer, greatly helping the FY20 and FY21 MSAC budgets.

• **Survey and Summer/Fall Programming:** Norma generated a list of members sorted by age to facilitate a phone "survey" to do wellness checks on members age 80 and older. A "script" was drafted for that purpose. Janna is seeking someone to coordinate that effort. No home visits are planned except for the wellness checking that is already part of the home delivered meal process. Mary Alice expressed concern about loneliness among elders, and noted that the World newspaper is still listing her "elders together" drop-in group as a current MSAC activity. Laura noted that many elders lack computers equipped with camera and microphone to let them take part in Zoom classes and that Internet access may be more limited in supporting towns.

**Meeting of New/FY21 Advisory Council:**

• **Composition and Officers:** In alpha order, members are Bob Barrett, Mary Alice Bisbee, Renea Bordeau, Mary Carlson, Barbara Dall, Bill Doelger, Dianne Maccario, Laura Morse, Suzi Swanson and Robert Youngberg. This meets the 9-member minimum, and one vacancy remains. It would be good to add a member from a supporting town, as Laura is currently the only one.

• **Officers:** Nominations were made, seconded and passed without dissent to elect Bob Barrett as AC Chair and Dianne Maccario as Vice Chair. Members acknowledged the service of outgoing AC members Fran Krushenick and Liz Dodd, who initially became part of MSAC as an Americorps participant in 2012.

• **Schedule for FY21 AC Meetings:** Renea and Suzi are still working, but both said they could be somewhat flexible, making it less crucial to start meetings in late afternoon (see below).

**Next Advisory Council Meeting**

• **Time/Place:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm on the second Monday of the month (July 13, August 10). Consensus appeared to be that AC should meet monthly until pandemic response dust settles. When in-person meetings are feasible, the AC could consider meeting in a supporting town like Worcester or if physically accessible, somewhere outside.

• **July 13 Agenda:** Orientation (e.g., how AC functions, Community Services Dept. structure, City budget process), committee assignments, reopening update, survey update, status of new Americorps position.

Meeting adjourned EXACTLY ON TIME at 5:30 pm. Who'd've thunk it?

Respectfully submitted:  Mary Carlson, scribe du jour