

Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC)
Advisory Council (AC) Meeting Minutes (Draft 1)
Online Zoom Session: Monday, May 10, 2021 (12:00 – 1:30 pm)

Advisory Council (AC) members attending were Mary Alice Bisbee, Renea Bordeau, Mary Carlson, Barbara Dall, Bill Doelger, Dianne Maccario, Laura Morse, Suzi Swanson, Robert Youngberg. Not attending was Bob Barrett. The quorum requirement (6) was met.

Others present: MSAC Director Janna Clar; guests Fran Krushenick, Tina Muncy, Jean Olson

Action on AC Meeting Minutes:

- The AC voted to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2021 meeting (draft 1b) as presented. The AC voted to accept the minutes of the April 1, 2021 meeting (draft 2) as presented.

Announcements & Discussions:

- **MSAC Reopening:** Janna reported that a 900 SF tent is set up across the footbridge next to the City pool pavilion for the shared use of MSAC and the City summer camp. Over the summer, MSAC will practice using new equipment enabling hybrid classes with some in-person participants and others taking part remotely, and expects to be able to advertise hybrid classes by the fall quarter. May 7 was the last work day for Becca Jordan as Community Services Department (CSD) Communications & Development Coordinator; since Becca had been preparing the quarterly program guides, this is added to Janna's current workload. The City is restructuring some staff roles. FEAST meal production is being ramped up, and kitchen manager Mike Morse of Good Taste Catering (GTC) will start gradually training a new GTC employee to fill his role when indoor meals resume in July. Trip planning is contingent upon van condition and the ever-evolving Covid guidelines. Starting in July, MSAC will stop health-screening (e.g., taking temps) each visitor, replacing that process with signage advising visitors to self-check against the short list of Covid risk criteria and symptoms. Senior centers are part of the statewide "Vermont Forward" plan but advised to use their own judgement regarding stricter guideline implementation. MSAC will not require visitors to prove they have been vaccinated, and some members may be reluctant to enter the facility because of this. Discussion included different seating arrangement options for in-person FEAST meals. The June MSAC newsletter will include reopening guidelines.
- **Program Committee:** A dozen people attended the May 6 committee meeting. Topics included those Janna reported above. Some in-person groups (e.g., Trash Tramps, Walks With Joan) are happening now. Folks who pre-register for the Elders Together group will meet on the Statehouse lawn. A few spring classes (e.g., Great Decisions, Food As Medicine) were cancelled due to low demand. MSAC got an anonymous donation to create a lending library of devices available free to members. Andrew Gribbin is leading that initiative; his Americorps term ends this summer so MSAC will start recruitment for the position in June. New class proposals include one in digital photography & editing and another in digital art. MSAC may hold one indoor class in the morning and another in the afternoon, to enable the gathering space to be sanitized between sessions. A few events have been added to MSAC's new YouTube channel; MSAC will announce its availability later.

- MSAC Van: The van is old and needs servicing. Hoping to purchase a newer, quieter, more comfortable van that might also be used for City Parks & Recreation purposes, Janna last week submitted an earmark request to Bernie Sanders, who has always considered seniors a priority concern. If that request is denied, the City will explore the availability of other federal relief funding. An important van issue is that Tina Muncy is currently MSAC's only available van driver. MSAC needs additional drivers, and one suggestion was to research whether GMTA has retired drivers who might be interested. The van only seats twelve participants (or less, depending on distancing options), but combining the van with carpools is problematic. In addition to potential liability issues carpools may create, the van driver should not be distracted by the carpoolers, who may feel less integrated into the MSAC trip experience and decide to spin off independently. Norma is heading up van servicing. Sarah and Andrew will try to recruit from among Meals on Wheels drivers and others.
- Annual Survey: The draft updated by the ad hoc committee is not finalized or online yet but is on schedule to be ready for the May 17 target. The MSAC membership renewal mailing going out soon will include information about the survey but not the survey form since the aim is to maximize online survey submissions. Members may request a paper survey form if needed. June 15 is the survey response deadline to qualify for the raffle prize drawing at the June 22 annual meeting.
- Annual Membership Meeting: Suzi presented the draft agenda for the Tuesday, June 22, meeting. The 12:45 am – 2 pm schedule will let people finish their lunch (offsite) first and include Willem Lange as guest speaker. MSAC chair Bob Barrett will be unable to attend. Current Covid guidelines will only allow in-person attendance by 14 members plus staff. MSAC will offer a special training session on how to attend a Zoom meeting by telephone. Send suggestions to Bob Barrett before the annual meeting committee reconvenes June 7.
- Supporting Town Funding: Topic is not urgent so was tabled until the July AC meeting.
- Other: Mary Alice reminded AC that she is resigning her seat effective with the June meeting. This will create a vacancy on the AC unless the election process now underway generates write-in candidate votes or other candidates for AC consideration.

Next Advisory Council Meetings:

The MSAC annual meeting traditionally is preceded by a short meeting of the outgoing AC to address any loose ends, and is followed by a short meeting convening members of the newly constituted AC to decide their schedule for regular AC meetings.

Current AC Members: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 (9:30 – 10:15 am) by Zoom. Agenda: update on reopening plans and annual meeting logistics

AC members as of 2021 annual election: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 (2:30 – 3 pm). Agenda: elect new AC officers and determine schedule for upcoming AC meetings.

Agenda for July AC meeting, date and time TBD, will include updates on program registration and supporting town funding.

Respectfully submitted: *Mary Carlson, scribe du jour*