

Danvers Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting

March 18, 2021

Present: Geri Cosgrove, Don Gates, David Mills, Marge Leonard, Barbara Remon & Larry Chisholm & Pam Parkinson

Excused: John Keohane

Location: Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Geri Cosgrove called the meeting to order at 3:07pm.

Minutes of January 21, 2021 were reviewed. Don Gates moved to accept the minutes. Barbara Remon seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Fiscal Update:

Pam reviewed the January & February 2021 Fiscal Updates with board members. We are expecting a \$22,000 Uber donation for transportation, however, it has not been confirmed that we received it yet.

New Business:

Pam discussed with the board that there are two vacancies on the board. Joe Palmer and Bob King are no longer with the board. Pam asked if there were any suggestions for replacements. Barbara Remon suggested Bill Nicholson, Bill Clark, and Bill Bates. David suggested Carla King who is the head of the dog park. All members agreed to the suggestions. Pam said we will table this until our next meeting, and she will reach out to them to see if they would be interested in joining.

Gerri asked if we have been able to start anything at all at the senior center. Pam said yes. Bocce was held outside last spring and summer when staff was back in the building on an A/B schedule, and they can reconvene when the weather gets warmer again. The Walking Club also met during this time but stopped during the winter and will be starting up again with warmer weather. When we do open the senior center, it will be gradual and not all at once.

Marge asked if we would be able to hold board meetings outside. Pam said she hopes by April we can do a meeting outdoors or in the great room but that she would need to check with the town manager first for his approval.

Gerri asked when will the Social Seniors be back. Pam wants the program to open, but there are questions that will need to be answered before we can do so. Some questions are have participants been vaccinated, would participants be willing to be vaccinated and getting staff who have been furloughed back. Judith Ryan oversees this program, and she is currently working on Covid 19 so we may need to hire someone else or have staff help with the program until her return.

The town is looking back at Covid and identifying "Super Heroes" in the community. Pam is sending something to recognize the people who took over at the food pantry during the pandemic. The school department set up overnight a Grab & Go lunch bag program for seniors and got volunteers to deliver. They ran the program from 3/11/20 until the end of the school year and then the senior center took over the program in addition to us starting the meals on wheels program again.

We had over 27 high school students, teachers and some electric division employees who volunteered to drive the programs during the summer.

The Housing Authority will be holding a flu clinic on March 25th at the senior center. This is being done through the Board of Health. Judith Ryan, the Public Health Nurse, will be overseeing it.

Pam mentioned that Mark Carleo has resigned as the Public Health Director and his last day is tomorrow 3/19/21.

Larry asked has anything been said about the senior center name changed to Wayne Marquis. Pam said she has not heard anything else on it since Covid started. David said at their latest Selectmen meeting, there is a new policy in place for the naming of any property owned by the town. He suggested staff reach out to Cathy Ellsworth for a copy of the policy and send a copy out to the other directors.

Friends of the DCOA Report:

The Friends are supporting all our drive thru events. We have had six different drive thru events so far. Yesterday was our St. Patrick's Day drive thru and we had 160 people come by. Each person got a bag with a dinner consisting of Guinness Beef served with Colcannon potatoes, Irish soda bread and a cupcake. The bag also contained a face mask, Tic Tacs and some information on St. Patrick's Day.

The drive thru program is a way to do some outreach to seniors who are isolated and homebound. Pam shared some thank you notes we have received from seniors who are so appreciative of this program.

The next Friends meeting will be next week, and the Annual Meeting will be in May. We do not have the day confirmed yet, but all directors are invited to attend.

Don Gates motioned to adjourn meeting. Larry Chisholm seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 15th at 3pm.

Submitted by:

Barbara Remon, Secretary