

MSAC Advisory Council Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

January 13, 2020

MSAC Resource Room, 58 Barre Street, Montpelier, VT

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. Members present: Chair Bob Barrett, Mary Alice Bisbee, Mary Carlson, Barbara Dall, Fran Krushenick, Dianne Maccario, Laura Morse, Suzi Swanson, Bill Doelger. Not present: Liz Dodd.

Others present: Janna Clar, MSAC Director; Cameron Niedermayer, Assistant City Manager
Members of Montpelier Village Project: Erica Garfin, Andrea Stander, Polly Nichol

Quorum (6) was met.

Action on Meeting Minutes:

AC approved the November 4, 2019 minutes.

Review of Current Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps (GASP)

Class Evaluation Questionnaire. Ideas for changes have been developed. Mary volunteered to take this to Harry for creating changes in Survey Monkey.

Budget update with Cameron Niedermayer, Assistant City Manager

Council proposed a draft budget with a 4.2% increase (mostly because of insurance, funding of Confluence Park water access and Homelessness task force \$45,000 priorities:

- Peer outreach worker

- Setting up portable toilets in camping areas

- Setting up lockers for storage for the approximately 20 people who camp outside

No change in budget for MSAC (see pages 2 and 3 in Directors notes)

There will be a \$10 across the board rise in dues and \$5 in most class fees; recognizes there may be some losses in memberships and enrollments from this.

We are asking for \$40,000 from 6 towns (up \$11,000) Janna is fairly confident but it's a risk.

Recreation Center designs are in. The City Council prefers the \$5.2 million one, which includes energy efficiency measures which are in line with city's net zero goals. Cameron reported that the city was preparing a proposal for a bond vote in November but a change in their team personnel affected their schedule.

In response to a question, Cameron said we should feel free to let our legislators know that we think city employees should be on state workers health insurance plan.

Montpelier Village Work Project/Work Group

Erica Garfin, Polly Nichol and Andrea Stander were present to discuss the work of this group. (which had included Dianne, and now also includes Mike Harris and Jeanne Kern). Erica gave an overview which summarized what was written in "A Potential Role for MSAC in Creating a 'Village' in Montpelier." All members received this before the meeting.

Polly explained two specific parts of the proposal which had been presented to Jenna on November 7. These are systems for creating "Buddies" and "Get-Togethers." Arrangements could be made using Village Network software, or Google or Meet up. A volunteer or staff member could coordinate this, but for people with in Internet, there would need to be a physical bulletin board. Some get-together opportunities are already happening at the center, but the Village Project proposes broadening the range to include a way for individuals to organize themselves around their interests. They would do this independently, using a system that would use software (similar to what would be used to organize "Buddies."

Suzie suggested a fifth committee could be formed to work on this.

Bill agreed that isolation is being addressed and that's an important goal.

Mary Alice raised the need for transportation in our area. The Village group explained that they identified this need and agreed it is a priority, but with recent developments (the micro-transit project) it made sense to wait until it's seen whether this new system is helpful. It was agreed that members of MSAC and/or those interested in volunteering for future Village work could be valuable testers of the micro-transit model.

Janna stated her enthusiasm for the Village Project's ideas but that she faces difficulty at this point with budget and staff time; and she reiterated what the center can do to support the project's work. (See The Village Project Update in Director's Notes for this meeting.)

Dianne mentioned that her work with the Village Project steering group is now over, but she looks forward to working within the Advisory Council to help support the Project as it continues efforts to integrate into the Senior Center.

****Bob suggested we make a statement acknowledging the work of the Village Project. This is the proposed wording:

"The Advisory Council supports the ideas presented by the Village Project's efforts to address options for socialization and transportation and we will welcome opportunities to work with them across membership towns (keeping in mind the limitations of MSAC staff and budget)."

Annual Survey Redesign

A group has been formed to work on this. Members are: Laura Morse, Barbara Dall, Mary Alice Bisbee, Barbara Smith, and Bob Barrett

Accreditation

This item wasn't discussed but will appear on the next meeting's agenda.

Suggested Changes to Governance Policies and Procedures

****Several changes to the governance policy were recommended
re: B. Advisory Council , Section 3. Expectations

B.3.a. Changed to:

To serve a two year term starting and ending in late June. Members can serve a maximum of 3 terms.

B.3.b. Changed to:

To attend Advisory Council meetings (6 per year as of January 2020). An AC member may attend the meeting by telephone or other electronic means so long as the member is identified as present, can hear and be heard during the meeting, and is able to review materials discussed at the meeting.

B.3.e. To play a role in the work of the Advisory Council by volunteering for projects and activities of the Council and, to the extent possible, by contributing to the financial health of the organization by personal donation or assistance with fundraising activities.

Bob invited members who want further input to the Governance policies to contact him by the February 14.

Mary Carlson, who has been keeping track of all the recent changes to Governance, said she wants to be part of any further changes.

Director Notes topics

1. Winter Class registration and Spring program planning. Janna was happy to report that no winter classes had to be cancelled for low enrollment. There are 78 classes running (119 if including free classes).
2. Great Decisions has a waiting list which will become a priority for the next section.
3. MSAC serving as a youth snow day activity location. AC members raised questions about how much this would require involvement of staff, liability, and accessibility if it is limited enrollment.
4. Town Meeting Preparation. Janna asked for volunteers to attend the Worcester meeting. Barbara and Dianne volunteered. Janna will send them talking points.
5. Attendance at Older Vermonters Caucus on Thursday, March 12. Bill and Mary Alice volunteered to attend.

Next AC meeting: Monday, March 9, noon-2:30 pm.

Agenda to include:

1. Annual meeting: the idea of Advisory Council doing the planning and staffing of the Annual Meeting
2. Accreditation
3. Approval of wording for endorsement of Village Working Group
4. Approval of changes to Governance policy