

Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC)  
Advisory Council (AC) Meeting Minutes (Draft 1)  
Online Zoom Session: Monday, February 8, 2021 (4:45 – 5:30 pm)

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

Others present: MSAC Director Janna Clar

**Action on AC Meeting Minutes:**

- The AC voted to accept the draft January 11, 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

**Announcements & Discussions:**

- Research Grant Application: Janna announced that MSAC decided not to pursue an invitation to take part in a research project for which the University of Delaware is seeking National Institutes of Health funds. The proposed project would test the merits of a specific online program at measuring the impact of mental health strategies on elders. AC members had expressed concerns about the proposal design and its potential negative impact on MSAC.
- March for Meals Campaign: An insert in The Bridge newspaper will promote MSAC activities to support its FEAST program. They will include nine Zoom events by donation plus a curbside lasagna meal on Thursday, March 25.
- Program/Class Data Analysis: Janna reviewed the spreadsheet Harry Divack developed to show class participation and expense/revenue levels for the quarters from spring of 2019 to winter of 2020. The report offered a look at how the pandemic seems to have affected the different types of classes and their financial impact on MSAC. Yoga and art classes tend to be more costly for MSAC because they are rarely led by volunteer instructors. The fall 2020 quarter was relatively lucrative for MSAC because some normally-paid instructors volunteered their services. Janna stressed that they are not basing spring class decisions on this data, but that it should be considered as MSAC continues to move through and beyond the pandemic. MSAC will not offer any in-person classes in the spring quarter and may limit class size to 25 since Zoom can only show so many participants at once. Full attendance for Maggie Thompson's online writing class is making it hard for the curriculum to fit into the time available, so maybe an additional class can be scheduled. Mary Alice requested a class to teach older elders tech basics, such as what is texting. Janna noted that MSAC is offering a broader range of programming than most Vermont senior centers.
- Annual Meeting: Janna said the agenda might include storytelling by Willem Lange, who offered an event for the March for Meals after planning was already done!

**Next Advisory Council Meeting:**

Monday, March 8, 2021 (noon – 1:30 pm) by Zoom. The agenda will include updates on the budget and on the Village Project and Wellness Calls initiatives, committee reports, and MSAC annual meeting planning.

Respectfully submitted: *Mary Carlson, scribe du jour*