

Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC)
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes (Draft 1)
Hybrid In-Person and Zoom Session: Tuesday, June 22, 2021

The annual meeting convened at 12:45 pm. The 2021 meeting was conducted as a hybrid session where members could attend in-person or remotely by using the Zoom video platform or their telephone. MSAC director, Janna Clar, welcomed members to the gathering and confirmed by members present raising their hands that the quorum minimum (15) was exceeded. Also attending were Assistant City Manager Cameron Neidermayer and several guests.

Action on Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting: Members voted to accept the minutes of the annual meeting that took place June 18, 2019. MSAC had cancelled its 2020 annual membership meeting due to COVID pandemic safety precautions.

Staff and Volunteer Recognitions: Janna acknowledged the loss of FEAST director, Jessica Sanderson, who passed away in 2020, as well as staff members Becca Jordan, who recently left the position as Community Services Department Communication & Development Coordinator, and Aging In Place Coordinator Andrew Gribbin, whose Americorps term ends in August. She recognized the contributions of volunteers Laura Morse and Mary Carlson. She noted the two Advisory Council members who were leaving the Council because they had served for the maximum of six consecutive years – former Council chair Bob Barrett and Bill Doelger, who had led the capital campaign that renovated the MSAC facility – as well as Mary Alice Bisbee, who leads the Elders Together drop-in group and whose busy schedule inspired her to resign from the Council with a year left in her term. Members starting new 2-year terms on the Advisory Council are Laura Morse and Dianne Maccario, both of whom were reelected, and newly elected members Mariah Lane, Jean Olson and Rick Winston. Assistant City Manager Cameron Neidermayer acknowledged that Janna is shifting into the position formerly held by Becca Jordan, and that the City welcomes input regarding potential candidates to fill the MSAC director position.

FY-2021 Preliminary Report (July 2020 – June 2021): Janna reported that MSAC responded to the pandemic by mobilizing volunteers when City staff were furloughed temporarily, closing the facility to visitors, cancelling some classes and finding creative ways to continue or restart activities, e.g., classes offered outdoors or remotely. One drawing class was held in a cemetery! MSAC focused on FEAST as an essential service, hired Sarah Lipton to replace Jessica Sanderson as its director, and moved meal production offsite. The revenue loss resulting from a decision not to collect FY21 member dues and reduction in class offerings was largely repaired by federal COVID relief funding and grants/gifts from individuals, foundations and businesses. The growing MSAC At Home program services included wellness calls to older MSAC members, and special initiatives included the March For Meals fundraiser, Elders Together and Remembering Our Veterans. Financial data will be released later in summer.

FY-2022: The Year Ahead: Janna encouraged members to take part in the 2021 Annual Survey (also not done in 2020 due to COVID) and in the summer class season that starts the first week of July. She reported that FEAST program is being redesigned and will return to the MSAC kitchen in October. The new MSAC At Home program is being developed, as well as a Device Lending Library to enable members lacking computers or other smart devices to participate in MSAC activities remotely, starting this fall. Cameron Neidermayer reported that the City received a much smaller amount in federal COVID relief funding than expected and has been finding ways

to recover financially. Plans to (possibly) renovate and reopen the Recreation Center across the street from MSAC are underway, a major challenge being the need to make it more accessible to all residents. MSAC had sought funding through Bernie Sanders to purchase a new van, and the City is exploring the possibility of getting a van that MSAC could share with the Parks and Recreation divisions.

2021 MSAC Annual Survey: Mary Carlson reported some preliminary survey findings, e.g., that 80% said the pandemic did not change their housing or financial situation and 90% want to retain the option to attend MSAC activities using Zoom or other video platforms. She cautioned that such statistics would probably change because the survey is still underway and that so far, only 105 surveys had been tabulated, only a quarter of the volume responding to the 2019 survey. She also cited a few comments added by respondents, including: "Feeling lucky to be alive, and appreciating all that life offers: nature, people, and the pleasures of learning all kinds of things."

Raffle Drawing: Several prizes (gift certificates for MSAC services, a Pickleball punch card, family pass to the City pool) were won by members who returned the annual survey by June 15, chose to enter the raffle and attended the annual meeting. Prizewinners were Linda Workman, Whit and Barbara Dall, and Mariah Lane.

Guest Speaker and Meeting Wrapup: Writer/storyteller Willem Lange, who has lived in central Vermont for 14 years, treated everyone to one of his stories. Retiring Advisory Council member Mary Alice Bisbee did an excellent job of capturing the content and spirit of the annual meeting in this summary report:

"It was wonderful having our Annual Meeting back inside MSAC after a two-year hiatus! Tuesday, June 22, members gathered in-person and remotely to share once again. Zoom attendees were shown on a large screen, and live audience speakers were viewed by Zoom participants as we honored members, staff and volunteers who helped us all stay connected over the past two years. Janna gave a stellar report of all that's happened and a brief summary of what's to come. She's transitioning from her role as Director to a position doing communications, fundraising and advocacy for the City's Community Services Department and will help a new director ease in later this summer!

Our guest speaker – MSAC member, Willem Lange – gave his usual hilarious performance while reciting some choice stories about an old country store dealing with newcomers, summer visitors and strangers. He warned us he'd not be staying for questions; he had to rush home to ensure his "kids," now in their 60s, weren't cleaning out his house of everything he owned!

I think we all felt so much more confident that we have a bright future ahead as we traverse the "new normal."

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm. A recording of the event was posted at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/369/MSAC-Advisory-Council>.

Respectfully submitted: *Mary Carlson, scribe du jour*