

Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC)
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes (Draft 2)

Hybrid In-Person and Zoom Session: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 (1:00 – 2:30- pm)

Advisory Council (AC) members attending were Mary Carlson, Barbara Dall, Mariah Lane, Dianne Maccario, Laura Morse, Jean Olson, Suzi Swanson and Rick Winston. Not attending was Renea Bordeau. The quorum requirement (5) was met.

Also attending were MSAC Director Sarah Lipton, Americorps staffer Maddie Sholar, and Arne McMullen, CSD Recreation Division director.

Acronyms Used: CVCOA (Central VT Council on Aging), CSD (Montpelier Community Services Department, comprising the MSAC, Parks & Trees, and Recreation divisions); NCOA (National Council on Aging)

Action on AC Meeting Minutes

The AC voted to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting as presented.

Announcements & Discussions

- **Recreation Division Update:** Arne McMullen described the status of the Recreation Center (across Barre Street from MSAC) that stopped hosting programs when the pandemic struck. The building needs extensive and costly renovations, so his team is exploring the feasibility of creating a new facility. Its venue is yet unknown, possibly near the City rec field on Elm Street. The new facility vision includes courts for basketball and racket sports, showers with outside access so they could serve homeless people as well, a family restroom and "mothers room", a fitness room and possibly a small indoor track. They would create a new membership process to manage participation. Another group called The Hub is looking into building a tennis facility at the Elks Club, a potential opportunity for collaboration.
- **Director Updates:** Sarah had provided a detailed set of 10/8/21 "Director's Notes" in advance of the AC meeting. She added the surprising news that Albert Sabatini (Chef Al), just hired as MSAC's new Kitchen Manager, announced that he only wants to stay in that position for three months, which means MSAC must revisit the candidate search. Staff found about ten computers in the facility that are being evaluated to determine their value and potential usage. FEAST wants to restart hot home meal delivery in November. Jean suggested that it would be useful for MSAC to create a one-page item describing the various FEAST components. Aging In Place coordinator Maddie Sholar attended a Village-To-Village conference last week and is mobilizing volunteers to provide MSAC At Home services. The City Council goals included having MSAC develop a strategic plan.
- **Class Participation & Membership Updates:** Sarah provided a "bottom line" spreadsheet report that itemizes current MSAC classes by data such as their costs and potential revenue. Winter classes will start January 10. Laura pointed out that the fee schedule for the Bone Builders classes offers no benefit to residents of MSAC supporting towns and recommended a separate meeting to brainstorm this issue. It was suggested that Janna attend the next Program Committee meeting since she knows the history behind that fee schedule.

- AC Vacancies: Announcing in the newsletter that the AC has vacancies has generated no member interest yet. Some AC members volunteered to write short blurbs for the newsletter, describing the experience and benefits of serving on the AC. There was discussion about the pros and cons of increasing the number of seats on the AC.
- Accreditation Process: As highlighted in Sarah's "Directors Notes" the City government wants MSAC to submit an accreditation proposal to the NCOA by January of 2023. AC members were invited to join Sarah for an NCOA webinar on the process at 3 pm.
- Fundraising: Janna has been busy working on the Parks & Trees division initiative to purchase 80 acres land to expand Hubbard Park. Sarah and Janna will be developing the annual MSAC member fundraising appeal planned for November, followed up in early December by an appeal postcard.

Next Advisory Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 (1:00 – 2:30 pm). The agenda tentatively will include:

- Action on October 12 minutes
- Director's updates/notes
- Parks & Trees division director, Alec Ellsworth
- Fundraising Update
- Data on membership and class participation (e.g., member vs nonmember participation)
- Potential agenda items for next AC meeting (Tuesday, January 11, 2022)

Respectfully submitted: *Mary Carlson, scribe du jour*