



Watertown Commission on Aging

Andrea Plahn – Commissioner

Chris Boerner – Commissioner

Richard Schimmel – Commissioner

Terry Gallagher – Commissioner

Deb Favorit - Commissioner

Steve Washburn – Mayor – City of Watertown

Margaret Reisdorf – Administrative Services Director – City of Watertown

Paul Ericsson – Carver County Library – Branch Manager

Amy Dimmler – Watertown – Mayer Community Education – Education Director

Dawn Plumer – Carver County Health and Human Services – Public Health Program Director

9/7/2022 - Minutes

1. Call To Order

The Commission on Aging meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm on September 7, 2022.

Members Present: Richard Schimmel, Terry Gallagher, Deb Favorit, Margaret Reisdorf, Paul Ericsson, Amy Dimmler and Dawn Plumer.

Members Absent: Andrea Plahn, Chris Boerner and Steve Washburn.

Others in Attendance: None.

2. Adopt Agenda

Terry Gallagher moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Deb Favorit Seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Approve Minutes From October 6, 2021

Terry Gallagher moved to adopt the October 6, 2021 Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes as submitted. Paul Ericsson Seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

4. "Kick-Off" & Introductions

Margaret Reisdorf initiated the "kick off" and introduction section of the agenda. She stated that since the Commission on Aging is "restarting up", that she suggested that everyone in attendance go around and introduce themselves to everyone else. Reisdorf stated that she recently started with the City of Watertown as the Administrative Services Director and looked forward to working with everyone on Commission.

Amy Dimmler introduced herself and stated that she is the Education Director with Watertown-Mayer School District. She informed that she was relatively new to the Commission on Aging.

Paul Ericsson informed that he was with Carver County Library as the Branch Manager of Watertown, Waconia and Norwood Young America. He stated that he has been on the Commission on Aging for quite some time. He explained that the library offers a great partnership to the Commission on Aging in that they can provide grant funding support for programs, intergenerational outreach, and programs for all ages.

Deb Favorit informed that she is a resident of the City of Watertown and has been a part of the Commission on Aging for a while. She explained that she is a nurse for her career and that provides an extra awareness as far as senior health care and health needs. She explained that educational programs and other programs offered to seniors are important.

Terry Gallagher informed that he is a resident of the City of Watertown and is new to the Commission on Aging. He said that he also serves on the Park Commission. He explained that walkability and traffic connections (such as trails and walkways) are important for people of all ages. He explained how he wants to help make an impact in the community.

Richard Schimmel informed that he also serves on the Watertown Fine Arts Commission and is a resident of the City of Watertown.

5. New Business

5.A. Appoint Chair & Vice Chair

Favorit moved to appoint Terry Gallagher as the Chair of the Commission on Aging and Richard Schimmel as Vice Chair for the remainder of 2022. Ericsson seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

5.B. Treasurer Report

Reisdorf asked that this item be tabled until the next meeting.

5.C. Holiday Senior Dinner

Reisdorf provided a brief overview of the annual senior holiday dinner that takes place at the beginning of December. She informed that the event has been cancelled over the last couple of years because of the pandemic but inquired as to whether the Commission on Aging would be interested in having the event in 2022.

Favorit provided some insight into the past events. She stated that the event's food is generally "bid out" to different local establishments to see which establishment comes in at the most reasonable price. She also said that the high school partners by having band and choir students provide music.

Dimmler said that she would be able to reach out to various teachers and ask about band and choir participation again. She also stated that she would contact the school administrative team and other student organizations.

Plumer informed that the Carver County Public Health Department is usually able to donate between \$300 - \$350 towards the food purchase.

Ericsson suggested asking the Watertown Lions for a partnership opportunity as well.

There was also a request to contact Watertown-Mayer Royalty.

The Commission finalized December 6, 2022, as the date of the event for 2022.

There was additional discussion on decorations, desserts, marketing, and arts and crafts.

Dimmler recommended notifying the Chamber of Commerce.

5.D. 2022 - 2023 Events/Initiatives/Topics

Reisdorf provided a summary of topic suggestions in which the Commission on Aging could focus on over time. The topics includes those related to housing, education, resources, community events, and communications.

She asked the Commission on Aging if there was a topic that would be good to bring back for review and discussion at the next meeting.

Schimmel suggested that Reisdorf provide more information on Meals on Wheels and other food delivery resources for seniors. Plumer stated that there are some other organizations in the area including "mom's meals", and "humanity alliance". Reisdorf said she would do research and bring this item back to the Commission.

Plumer stated that Carver County Public Health is going to be receiving a SHIP grant that will support a collaborative effort between Carver County and Wright County to educate and train people on dementia related topics. She stated that if anyone was interested in the training or promoting the training to let her know.

6. Other Business

6.A. Updates From City

Reisdorf informed that the General Election is in November.

6.B. Updates From Commissioners

Dimmler provided information on free exercise programs that are available to people of all ages and are available in person and online. She also stated that the Community Education Advisory Board meets four (4) times per year and would be happy to have a representative from the Commission on Aging.

Ericsson stated that a longtime employee, Jan Nestler, the library assistant for 36 years is retiring and invited commissioners to attend her retirement party event the following day and thank her for her many years of service. He also mentioned an upcoming book sale and book club meeting.

7. Adjourn

A motion by Gallagher to end the meeting at 4:25 was made. Schimmel Seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

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