



AGENDA of the Commission on Aging Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Andrea Plahn – Commissioner
Chris Boerner – Commissioner
Richard Schimmel – Commission Vice-Chair
Terry Gallagher – Commission Chair
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
Jake Foster – City Administrator

1. Call to Order

The Commission on Aging meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm on October 5, 2022.

Members Present: Richard Schimmel, Terry Gallagher, Chris Boerner, Deb Favorit, Margaret Reisdorf, Paul Ericsson and Jake Foster.

Members Absent: Andrea Plahn, Amy Dimmler, Dawn Plumer and Steve Washburn.

Others in Attendance: Jim May and Lucinda Raymond.

2. Adopt Agenda (motion needed)

Richard Schimmel moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Deb Favorit Seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Approval of Minutes from September 7, 2022

Boerner moved to adopt the September 7, 2022 Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes as submitted. Favorit seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

4. New Business

A. Treasurer Report.

Reisdorf informed that the current balance of the Commission on Aging Fund is \$3,478.06.

B. Holiday Dinner – December 2022

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Reisdorf provided an update on the planning of the annual senior holiday dinner that will take place on December 6, 2022. beginning of December. She explained that this event has been very popular in the past and has unfortunately been cancelled the last couple years because of the pandemic.

She stated that Amy Dimmler and she have met and have been narrowing details on the event. She provided the following updates:

- The community center at City Hall has been reserved for December 6, 2022.
- It is projected and therefore being for about 150 people attending.
- Several organizations have been contacted as far as for volunteering to set up for the event, server and take down. Those include: FFA, NHS, WM Staff, WM Royalty, City Hall Staff.
- The WM High School band and choir have been asked if they would be interested in providing entertainment.
- Reisdorf will be looking in the storage closets for past decorations.
- Placemats will be ordered and colored by the local preschool, childcare and elementary kids.
- Marketplace foods has been contacted as far as providing food and drinks for the event.
- Marketing will include putting up posters around the city, putting information on social media, the electronic sign and in the newsletter.
- Former sponsors have been contacted to see if they are interested in being a sponsor again.

Reisdorf informed that reservations have started to be taken by Mayer Community Education. They will be keeping a spreadsheet at their office.

Jim May, Marketplace Foods, provided some additional information on the catering for the event. He explained that he doesn't have any final prices or estimated at this time because there are some current unknowns. One of those include the price of turkey and if it will even be available at that time. He explained that he was confident that it would be available, but that more would be known as the event gets closer. May suggested thinking of an alternative meat choice just in case. May reviewed the recommended beverages, sides, and desserts.

There was discussion on chicken/pork being an alternative meat.

The commission discussed specifics on how the meals would be served, decorations, and entertainment.

Schimmel stated that he is on the Watertown Fine Arts Committee and as if he could reach out and invite an MC to announce the evening. The commissioners agreed.

The commission discussed using disposable linens for easy cleanup.

C. Regional Meal Programs for Seniors

Reisdorf introduced this item to the commission. At the previous meeting, the commissioners asked that Reisdorf look into the topic of regional meal programs for seniors in the community.

Reisdorf provided a Food Resources in Carver County information sheet to the commission that provides information on food resources throughout Carver County for seniors and others in need. She specifically went into detail about services provided by the Community Action Partnership (CAP) that serves Carver County and Scott County. She also provided information about the Abundance Food Program.

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Reisdorf stated that these programs along with other local food shelves, grocery transportation services, free food distribution events, etc. are great community resources that we should help to market.

The commissioners agreed to do more marketing of these resources.

5. Other Business

A. City Updates

Reisdorf provided some updates that were provided in the packet. They include:

- Carver County Library & Carver County Human Services are partnering on an event that will provide guidance on economic assistance benefits. The event will be reoccurring and will start on Monday, October 17, 2022 and continue monthly.
- Carver County Human Services will be offering the bivalent booster in eight of the senior apartment buildings throughout Carver County for those with mobility issues and who are unable to get to a vaccine clinic.
- Carver County Encore Adult Day Services will be hosting a Community Caregiver Support Group on October 10, 2022 at 5:00 – 6:50 pm in Waconia.

B. Reports from Commission Members

Ericsson mentioned that the library recently had a grandparent's week as one of their intergenerational programs. He mentioned an upcoming book sale that the library is hosting. He provided information on the upcoming "Ladies Night Out" event sponsored by the Watertown Chamber of Commerce.

Gallagher asked staff if there are priorities that the City Council wants the Commission on Aging to focus on. Reisdorf stated that it would be a good idea for the City Council and Commission on Aging to have a joint meeting in the near future to discuss goals and priorities. She recommended in 2023, since the City Council will be changing over in January.

Boerner recommended that the commission reflect on ways in which it can reach out to seniors and poll them on needs/priorities.

Gallagher suggested having a workshop or open house to invite seniors and get feedback.

There was additional discussion on conducting a survey and how to navigate that. The commission agreed to add that to a future agenda to discuss what questions would be on a survey.

6. Adjournment

A motion by Ericsson to end the meeting at 4:22 was made. Boerner Seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

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