

Watertown Commission on Aging

February 1, 2023

Agenda Item: 2022 Holiday Senior Dinner Event - Recap**Request for Action:** Holiday Dinner Update**Department:** Administrative Services Director, Margaret Reisdorf**Background:**

The Commission on Aging and other local organizations have historically come together to host a Holiday Senior Dinner event every December.

It has been a popular event for seniors to come, gather and socialize with a good meal and entertainment.

The event takes place at the Watertown Community Center.

2022 was the first Senior Dinner event to take place in a few years. It had been cancelled because of the pandemic.

Planning:*Reservations -*

Community Education took reservations and kept track of those attending. We estimated (based on past trends) between 150 – 200 people.

We had about 91 reservations. (Walk-ins?)

Volunteers –

Various groups helped with the event in areas such as set-up, serving and clean-up. This included: Students as part of FFA, NHS, WM Staff, WM Royalty, Commission on Aging members, City Council, City staff, etc.

Entertainment –

The WM High School Band & Choir provided a segment of musical entertainment. Gary Harding was the MC for the evening.

Decorations –

Placemats, centerpieces and the disposable table coverings were purchased. Table decorations included candles (in glass enclosures), decorative greenery and ornaments. Decorations included paper doilies decorated by the kids/students associated with Watertown-Mayer Schools.

Marketplace Foods –

Marketplace Foods provided food & drinks for the event. It was confirmed that plates would be \$15 per plate. We ordered 150 plates of food.

150 Plates = \$2,250.00

Marketing –

Posters were printed and placed around the City of Watertown. They were handed out to businesses and others to hand out at local establishments and gatherings. Information was also posted on social media and the city website.

Sponsors/Supporters of Event:

Carver County Library Staff, City of Watertown City Council and Staff, Commission on Aging, and Watertown-Mayer Schools Staff.

Carver County Health & Human Services - \$300.00 towards meal.

Watertown American Legion – \$500.00.

Watertown Lions – \$500.00

Commission on Aging – \$1,122.67.

Event Notes/Comments Received:

Positive feedback included that overall, it was a wonderful and successful event. Food was delicious, decorations were beautiful, festive, and fun. There were enough volunteers and helpers. There was plenty of food.

Things to consider for 2023:

I received a complaint regarding guests talking while the band/choir was performing. One discussion that could be had is whether it should be a period where there is silence or is it meant to be in the “background”.

Improve communication efforts to seniors in the community. It was mentioned to me that we may have missed some groups of seniors from the assisted living facilities.

Attachments:

None.