

TOWN OF WELLESLEY  
COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES OF REMOTE ONLINE MEETING  
25 August 2022

Mr. Parker called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

Ms. Rosefsky announced the meeting is aired live on Comcast channel 8 and Verizon channel 40 and will be available on demand the following morning. When two meetings are being held simultaneously, the second meeting will be live on Comcast channel 9 or Verizon channel 39. Meeting agendas are posted on [wellesleyma.gov](http://wellesleyma.gov) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, and protocols for participating in Citizen Speak appear within the agenda.

PRESENT: Tony Parker, Marlene Allen, Tory DeFazio, Susan Rosefsky, Cynthia Sibold, Dianne Sullivan, Kathleen Vogel, Tina Wang.

Also Present: Acting Council on Aging Director Greg Wilson

CITIZEN SPEAK: None

**MINUTES**

Moved (Allen) and seconded (Wang) to approve minutes dated July 28, 2022. Motion CARRIED on roll call vote: Parker, Allen, DeFazio, Rosefsky, Sullivan, Vogel, Wang

Kathy Trumbull joined the meeting at 4:04 pm. Lori Ferrante joined the meeting at 4:23 pm.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

GIFTS: Mr. Wilson recommended acceptance of:

From Friends of Wellesley Council on Aging:

- \$237 July lunch subsidy
- \$381 Simon's free lunch
- \$300.66 July coffee subsidy

From Sharon Blake

- Hand weights and light weights

Moved (Vogel) and seconded (Rosefsky) to accept cited monetary and non monetary gifts. Motion CARRIED on roll call vote: Parker, Allen, DeFazio, Rosefsky, Sibold, Sullivan, Vogel, Wang

Mr. Wilson reviewed the town's policy regarding gifts to the CoA. Monetary and non-monetary gifts accepted by the CoA board are subject to further review and approval of the Executive Director and/or Select Board. While some other town boards are empowered to accept gifts independently, a two-step approval involving the Select Board applies to the Council on Aging.

**PROPOSED BOSTON POPS EXCURSION**

Plans are being developed for a charter bus excursion accommodating as many as 50 registrants to attend a late afternoon Holiday Pops performance at Symphony Hall December 16, 2022. Mr. Wilson requested approval to allocate an amount not to exceed \$2,000 from the existing FY21 EOE surplus to offset the cost of the proposed trip. Assuming the proposed \$2K offset, the inclusive (transportation and ticket) per person fee for the trip is estimated to be \$89. The ensuing discussion included concern about the continuing challenges of establishing appropriate, yet affordable fees for excursions like this; equity of access for all to register; minimum/maximum registration limits; issues around possible cancellation/refund; accurate newsletter advertising of the event.

Moved (Vogel) and seconded (Rosefsky) to authorize \$2,000 from the FY21 EOE Fund surplus for a proposed Holiday Pops Excursion. Motion CARRIED on roll call vote: Parker, Allen, DeFazio, Ferrante, Rosefsky, Sibold, Sullivan, Trumbull, Vogel, Wang

#### PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES

- The Council offered movie showings throughout the summer twice weekly. Attendance averaged 8.
- An evening lecture, "Great Astronomers," was recorded and formatted for coverage on Wellesley Media.
- 50 participants attended the Hawaii 5-0 barbeque with the Wellesley Police Department.
- There was great feedback about the offerings of two virtual tours and a block printing workshop.
  
- Requests for financial assistance during the summer months were largely about air conditioning.
- The social connections group continued to meet on the patio.
- Coffee with a Cop offered a valuable discussion opportunity.
- Demand continues for the Men in Retirement group.
- The Council continues to respond to requests regarding hospitals or skilled nursing facilities, long term placement, in home care, assisted living with or without memory care, fall prevention, etc.
- Patrons are requesting changes in the process for accessing the Fitness Center.
- Efforts are ongoing to expand transportation to shopping venues outside Wellesley. It is possible a second MWRTA vehicle will become available soon.

The board acknowledged that acquisition of a second vehicle would require budget planning. There was considerable discussion about assuring appropriate training, orientation, instruction and record-keeping regarding patrons' use of fitness center equipment.

#### BUILDING UPDATE

- The kitchen study will get underway in September.
- Bids have not yet closed on the IT closet project.
- FMD is working directly with the DPW regarding drain and vegetation issues in the back area.

The board discussed possible additional parameters of the kitchen study, with particular concern that it not be limited by current programming, but also be visionary about possibilities.

#### AGE/PARTICIPATION POLICY

Mr. Wilson presented for FIRST READ a draft revised "Age and Participation Policy," which was developed in consultation with Wellesley Town Counsel. Board members raised concerns about these specific wordings within the draft: "under age 60," "Wellesley/non-Wellesley resident," and "registration required/not required." Mr. Parker reiterated that the draft brought forward by Mr. Wilson was developed for the board's consideration at this meeting. He encouraged members to form a policy writing sub committee to address future policy development as may be needed.

Moved (Vogel) and seconded (Rosefsky) to accept proposed age/participation policy draft with the following amendments:

- Remove *Individuals under age 60 are invited to participate as space permits.*
- Add *Programs require pre registration unless otherwise noted.*

Motion CARRIED on roll call vote: Parker, Allen, DeFazio, Ferrante, Rosefsky, Sibold, Sullivan, Trumbull, Vogel, Wang

## MASKS AND VACCINATIONS

Mr. Parker cited the increasing overall trend throughout communities and within organizations to roll back stringent vaccination and masking policies in favor of allowing individuals to make personal choices. The CoA's current policy requiring proof of vaccination status and masking is based on its survey conducted in February 2022. Mr. Wilson reported that wide policy variances – vaccination/mask required; mask optional; mask friendly; no policy – now exist among other Metrowest CoA communities. The board engaged in a wide ranging discussion about the science advances involving Covid since 2020; the current and continuing threat of Covid in our community and to the specific population served by CoA programs; possible coordination this fall with the Board of Health to offer Covid booster and/or flu shots; patron feedback about the existing masking policy. The board directed Mr. Wilson to develop a new survey to obtain up-to-date information from Wellesley CoA patrons about whether a revised (or unchanged) mask and vaccination policy would affect -- either positively or negatively— individuals' decisions to participate in programming.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- An informal get together is planned August 29, 2022, for CoA board members and staff.
- A Planning Retreat will occur Monday, October 3, 2022, 3:00 – 6:00 pm.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Moved (Vogel) and seconded (Wang) to approve these members to serve on the Nominating Committee:

- Tony Parker
- Susan Rosefsky
- Lori Ferrante
- Tory DeFazio
- Kathy Trumbull.

Motion CARRIED on roll call vote: Parker, Allen, DeFazio, Ferrante, Rosefsky, Sibold, Sullivan, Trumbull, Vogel, Wang

## SEARCH COMMITTEE

Ms. Allen reported on the new Director Search. Twelve applications are in hand. The board is working closely with the Town's Human Resources Department.

## EXPANSION COMMITTEE

Mr. Wilson reported that a group met August 19 working with a broad focus to expand CoA programming to include evening and offsite events.

## OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

- Members of the Finance working group will be identified in September.
- New member board orientation booklets are printed and available for distribution.
- An outreach program is scheduled at the Tolles Parsons Center on September 13 at 1:00 pm for seniors to meet with one (or more) representatives of the CoA board.
- Next board meeting – REMOTE -- Thursday, September 15.

## ADJOURN

Moved (Ferrante) and seconded (Vogel) to adjourn at 5:47 pm.

Motion CARRIED on roll call vote: Parker, Allen, DeFazio, Ferrante, Rosefsky, Sibold, Sullivan, Trumbull, Vogel, Wang

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Wolf

Town of Wellesley Council on Aging

Minutes of Board Meeting August 25, 2022

3 of 3

**Approved at the September 15, 2022 meeting.**