

2021 APR 30 AM 8:20

Members Present: Carol Sanders, Joyce Vlaun, Anita Collins, Rev. James Johnson, Kathleen McNamara, D. Judith Crawford. Via Zoom Dina Lopes

Members Absent: Anne Darling

Also Present: Kathleen Pierce, Assistant Director

Public: None

I. Call to order: Chairlady Carol Sanders called the Waterford Senior Citizens Commission Meeting of April 27, 2021 to order at 4:09 p.m.

II. Establish a quorum. A quorum was established.

III. Public Comment: No public comment

IV. Approval of the minutes of the February 23, 2021. Chairlady Sanders asked for additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes.

MOTION: Motion made by Joyce Vlaun, seconded by Anita Collins to approve the meeting minutes of February 23, 2021 as presented.

VOTE: 5-0-2 (Kathleen McNamara and Carol Sanders abstained)

V. Correspondence

- a. Letters of recommendation for 3 members reappointment
- b. Thank you note

VI. Committee Reports

a. Budget

The budget will be presented to the RTM on Thursday, May 6, 2021. There was a discussion about the finalized budget and letter. Commission Secretary will forward copy of finalized FY 22 budget to all members.

b. Nominating Committee

Members of the commission were reappointed by the RTM at their April 5, 2021 meeting. The members are Anita Collins, Anne Darling and Carol Sanders.

Election of officers:

MOTION: Motion made by Rev. James Johnson, seconded by D. Judith Crawford to keep the current slate of officers. Carol Sanders – chair, Kathleen McNamara and Joyce Vlaun –Co-Vice chairs.

VOTE: 7-0-0 Motion passed.

c. Transportation Committee – no report

d. Planned Giving Sub-Committee

The tiles for the Mural Wall are all in. The final placement of the tiles has begun and should be installed this summer.

VII. Director/Assistant Director Report –

Highlights included (see attached)

Budget will be presented to RTM on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Transportation requests are picking up. The Community Center is currently in a “soft opening” stage. A grant was received from the State Unit on Aging.

VIII. New Business – None

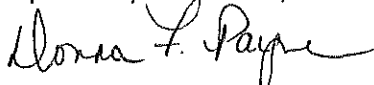
IX. Other Business – None

X. Adjournment

D. Judith Crawford moved to adjourn the April 27, 2021 meeting of the Waterford Senior Citizens Commission at 4:47 p.m. seconded by Kathleen McNamara.

Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna F. Payne
Recording Secretary



TO: Senior Citizens Commission

FROM: Kathy Pierce
Assistant Director, Senior Services

Lisa Cappuccio
Director, Senior Services

Date: April 27, 2021

Events and Operations:

The budget has passed the first two hurdles in the approval process. The final budget hearing with the RTM is scheduled for **Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7pm**. This will be a ZOOM meeting. We invite you to log in. As always, we appreciate your support!

Staffing and statistics:

In the February 19, 2021 we reported that our clerk, Barbara Pitkin, was temporarily moved to the Youth and Family Services department (YFSB). YFSB have been working hard supplying meals and food pantry items to citizens of Waterford. Barb has been helping out with this work. As the Community Center starts to come back to life, we are hoping to have Barbara come back, though this has not yet been approved. WYFB has been kind enough to send Barbara over during extremely busy times when one of us were on vacation or having a day off. We are always so grateful when Barbara comes over to help because she knows our transportation system and is very familiar with many of the programs we offer.

The Community Center is currently in a "soft opening" stage. Anyone wishing to utilize the facility exercise equipment, gymnasium, a room or area in the building are calling Rec & Parks to schedule. Due to the department being understaffed at this time, without a clerk, we were not able to take the lead in scheduling patron's use of the building. We worked closely with R&P to come up with a safe and orderly reopening plan. Currently that plan is being open from 8-4pm **by appointment only**. As of May 3rd the building will be open from 8am – 4pm with no reservation being required. On May 10th the hours will be increased to 8am – 8pm. There are currently no official group exercise classes or programs happening on site. This will change as of July 1, 2021.

Many times those coming into the building between 8am – 4pm are seniors. One of the first persons to come in was our 99 year old, WWII veteran, “Ruddy”. He was so happy to get back to his daily exercise routine and **be picked up by the senior bus** to bring him back and forth to his house. Many of our seniors have come in to greet us and it’s so nice to see some familiar faces around the building! Rec & Parks has paid staff working the front desk, checking people in, taking temperatures, checking IDs and filling out contact tracing forms. The front desk was formerly staffed with Senior Service volunteers but, for the time being, Rec & Parks will be staffing the desk. We have been told that starting July 1, 2021, staffing will need to revert back to volunteer staff, IF temperature taking is no longer a requirement.

The past several months have been very busy with “Tax and Vax” being the main bulk of the calls. The following is a partial tally of the calls we handled. There are probably more calls and appointments made for the vaccine. This is just a log of the calls we handled. It does not account for visits made, appointments, or the amount of rent rebate or energy applications handled.

Phone Inquiries **Time frame: July 2020 – March 2021**

Energy	184
Medicare	129
Rent Rebate	87
Housing	27
SNAP	57
Abuse/Neglect	5
AARP Tax	209
Transportation	340
MSP	7
MISC / Vaccine / Stimulus /Programs	427
TOTAL	1472

Approximately 120 Taxpayers were served by the AARP tax program. This year the program struggled to do more returns due to the pandemic and the need for social distancing while implementing the remote computer model which was needed. Our staff was an integral part of helping with the entire process and those struggling with the technology required.

The COVID Vaccination was another major event that stretched our limits. We responded to many people asking questions about the vaccine and those wishing to schedule their vaccination. We assisted well over 100 individuals with the scheduling of vaccines and hosted a vaccination clinic here at the Community Center where close to 300 people were vaccinated. The process was difficult for many seniors to navigate through and often frustrating. On a daily basis we monitored the various vaccination sites and the availability of vaccine locally where we could schedule our seniors. Many people were grateful for our efforts and sent notes to express their

appreciation. Lisa is working with LLHD to arrange for in-home vaccination for the homebound population in Waterford.

Transportation resumed on September 1, 2021. Since that time **we have given 1254 rides, most round trip, to 79 different seniors for medical appointments, errands and shopping.** We provided transportation on two Sundays to vaccine appointments at a LLHD clinic in Waterford on 2/28/21 and 3/28/21. On 4/15/21 we began increasing the number of people we have on the van from two to three riders. Recently we had a two driver day so we could accommodate everyone needing a ride. Still, at this time, we mostly have one driver each day. We anticipate that when the center opens we will need two drivers each day. We continue to encourage those needing rides outside of our time frames and territory to use the ECTC medical rides. Many times we assist in scheduling these rides as well.

Meals on Wheels continues to provide nutritious meals to over 40 homebound seniors. At the time of this report information on the number of meals distributed is not available. Many seniors are also taking advantage of meals and pantry supplies provided by the town food locker. WYFSB reaches out to seniors in the various housing complexes to ask if they want a delivery of pantry items and often a “special” meal provided by one of the town restaurants. Some seniors have expressed that they have too much and have asked to be removed from these deliveries.

Budget:

We have spent 61% of the budget

- Clerical line has used 56% of their line
- Instructor line has used 25%
- Program line has used 11%

It should be noted that we have done many events and activities which did not require us to spend money. We have successfully coached many of the seniors on the use of zoom and have hosted activities on this platform. Although this has been successful, most seniors are anxious to return to the center for in person socialization, learning & exercising.

Activities & Programs:

- We received a \$2500 grant from the State Unit on Aging which enabled us to be reimbursed for COVID related expenses. We are in the process of completing the final step of submitting our invoices and being fully reimbursed for many items which will be used for years to come.
- We continue to receive and make “check-in” calls to our homebound and at risk seniors.
- Vaccine appointment scheduling has slowed down. There are still a few folks “on the fence” about getting the vaccine.
- The state has extended the CEAP Energy program for 2020-2021. Fuel delivery authorizations have been extended to May 20, 2021 and the last day to apply for Energy Assistance is June 15, 2021.

- We are happy to report that we have 86 people ZOOMING into our programs and exercise classes! We hope to be returning a bit of revenue coming from our exercise classes. Stay tuned!
- Some programs and classes will be offered on site, starting in June!
- We will be starting to offer Hybrid exercise classes starting July 1, 2021. Students will be able to choose if they wish to do in person class or remain on the ZOOM platform.
- Our Movement and Dance class will soon hit a milestone of completing 100 classes on ZOOM!!
- Beginning to take Renter Rebate applications
- Bi-monthly newsletters continue to provide information to over 800 seniors/households

Classes and Activities

- “Chatty Kathy” – Wednesdays at 11am
- 4/28/21 – ZOOM Bingo
- Brain Flex with Lisa – Thursdays at 11am
- M & W @9:30 Strength Training – ZOOM
- M & W 11am Yoga – ZOOM
- T & TH 10am Movement & Dance – ZOOM
- May 7th @ 1pm Guided Imagery (8 weeks) – ZOOM
- Nurse Judy returns for blood pressure clinics!!!! Wednesdays @ 11am (Wellness clinic last Wednesday of each month 10 -12pm)
- May 12 & 26 – ZOOM Bingos
- May 18th - Pet Savvy Citizens – ZOOM
- May 19th Drive – in Luncheon celebrating Older Americans Month
- June 9 & June 30 – Welcome back BINGO (Hybrid)
- June 23rd – Strawberry Social
- July 1st new summer sessions – 8 Hybrid classes being offered!

TRIPS

Day Trip – October 5th Van Gogh Immersive Experience, Boston

Overnight Trips

British Landscapes – March 27, 2022 – April 5, 2022

Cruise through Alaska - August 26 – Sept 2, 2022