

MEETING: NEW BEDFORD COUNCIL ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
DATE: MAY 12, 2022
TIME: 9:00AM
PLACE: 181 HILLMAN ST., BUILDING # 9, NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740

DRAFT

Members Present

Bruce Duarte, Sr.- Chairperson
Patricia Costa, Vice-Chair
Nancy Feeney- Secretary
Jacqueline Medeiros
Deborah Mimoso
Celine Saraiva
George Smith
Jane Stott
Joan Swain

Others in Attendance

Pamela Amaral-Lema
Debra Lee

Excused Absences

Cynthia Wallquist

Mr. Duarte called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Duarte asked board members to look over the April minutes.

Minutes were presented and approved.

Old Business

Social Day- Ms. Lee reported social day programs were running well. The busiest day at social day south has 26 participants. Averaging \$24,000 a month in revenue. The revenue is used to fund staff salaries and benefits along with several grants. EOEA grant funds the biggest bulk of salaries and benefits.

Buttonwood Senior Center- Programming is picking up. Out of town residents are paying \$3 per exercise class. Exercise classes are free for New Bedford residents. The \$3 collected for exercise classes is deposited into the senior activities account. These funds then are used to fund additional programming and special events at the center.

Appearance- Maria Giesta, Ward 2 City Councilor; Vice-Chair Committee on Veterans Affairs, Elderly, Youth, Health, Housing & Disability Issues

Councilor Giesta was invited by board member, George Smith, to discuss senior center needs. Councilor Giesta reported that she has received complaints from ward 2 constituents regarding the Brooklawn community center being utilized as a social day program. She did state that the social day program provides a needed service for the area.

Councilor Giesta spoke about the need to have a community center for older adults and youth to use in the north end. Councilor Giesta and board members discussed vacant sites in the north end and the obstacles from using the sites. She would like to see a site with a commercial kitchen. She also spoke about ARPA funds. Discussion was held regarding the train coming to the Church St. area. She stated she will continue to discuss this matter with Senator Mark Montigny and Representative Christopher Hendricks.

Councilor Giesta thanked the board members for all they do to assist older individuals in the city. She also invited board members to attend an upcoming planning meeting on June 21st @ 6:30PM at Normandin Middle School.

Board members in closing did discuss with Councilor Giesta the need to have a ramp instead of a mechanical lift for ADA front/side entrance of 181 Hillman St., Bldg. 9.

Board members and COA administration thanked Councilor Giesta for taking the time to discuss this matter and for her service.

Chairperson Report

Board members discussed invited the chief of police to an upcoming board meeting. Mr. Duarte asked for a motion for the invitation. Ms. Smith made a motion, seconded by Ms. Feeney.

Chairperson's Report was moved and seconded and voted on unanimously.

Director's Report

Ms. Lee held a moment of silence for David Stevens. Ms. Stevens was the Executive Director of Massachusetts Councils on Aging. Mr. Stevens oversaw the agency operations, budget and staff. Served as the agency's Lobbyist and Community Relations Officer/Liaison. He was a great advocate for older adults in the Commonwealth.

Director's Report was moved and seconded and voted on unanimously.

Community Services Director's Report

Ms. Wallquist gave a brief report to Ms. Amaral-Lema:

- Haven't received our budget for FY23
- Should know more on State EOE budget after Friday's meeting

Community Services Director's Report was moved and seconded and voted on unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2022.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Joan Swain seconded by Patricia Costa.