



## **Watertown Commission on Aging**

Andrea Plahn – Commissioner

Chris Boerner – Commissioner

Richard Schimmel – Commission Vice-Chair

Terry Gallagher – Commission Chair

Deb Favorit - Commissioner

Lucinda Raymond - Commissioner

Kay Thul, Watertown City Council – 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

### *5/3/2023 - Minutes*

#### 1. Call To Order

The Commission on Aging meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm on May 3, 2023.

Members Present: Terry Gallagher, Richard Schimmel, Chris Boerner, Deb Favorit, Lucinda Raymond, Kay Thul, Margaret Reisdorf, Paul Ericsson, and Dawn Plumer.

Members Absent: Andrea Plahn, Amy Dimmler, and Jake Foster.

Others in Attendance: None.

#### 2. Adopt Agenda

Favorit moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Raymond seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

#### 3. Approve Minutes

Schimmel moved to adopt the April 5, 2023, Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes as submitted. Boerner seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

#### 4. New Business

## 1, Treasurer Report

Reisdorf reviewed the treasurer report with the Commission. She informed that since the last meeting in April, that the Commission on Aging has not spent or taken in any money.

She stated that the Commission has dedicated \$600 towards the Senior Dance for the reservation of the band, Hillbilly Cadillac.

She stated that the current balance remains at \$2,364.39 and if factoring in the \$600 allocation, it would be an unallocated balance of \$1,764.39.

## 2. Census Data

Reisdorf reviewed the following 2020 census data, for the City of Watertown, with the Commission on Aging. She informed that the provided census information was meant to provide the Commissioners with a better idea of the demographics of the City of Watertown, especially the aging population within the city.

Reisdorf stated that in 2020, according to the census report, the reported population of the city was 4,659. She informed that of that population, 678 were over the age of 60 equaling about 12.9% of the reported population.

Reisdorf provided information on households. She said that in 2020, the total number of households was 1,589 with an average household size being 2.90 people. She stated of those reported households, 29.6% had one or more households with one or more people over the age of 60.

Reisdorf reviewed housing data, stating that of the reported 1,589 households, the following housing units were reported:

- Single-Family Detached: 1,353 households
- Single-Family Attached: 74 households
- Multi-Family (Apartments: 5-9 Units): 49
- Multi-Family (Apartments: 10+ Units) 28
- Mobile Home/Other: 85

Gallagher asked if the data could be compiled with 2010 data to provide greater insight into trends. Reisdorf stated that she could put that information together.

Gallagher asked about potential development projects and if they would include senior housing.

Reisdorf informed that there are current development projects being reviewed at the Planning Commission and that as part of those discussions, there have been requests to consider senior housing within those projects.

Gallagher spoke about multigenerational housing.

Raymond stated that there needs to be more affordable housing options for seniors so that they can stay within the community.

Schimmel agreed that many seniors are having to move to the City of Delano or Waconia for housing options.

Boerner asked if the Commission on Aging should issue a statement to the other city commissions and city council stressing the urgency of senior housing options.

There was continued discussion on senior housing types such as apartments and assisted living.

Plumer informed that the Carver County Community Development Authority (CDA) works on Countywide projects that are geared toward supporting affordable housing. She stated that she could ask a representative from the Carver County CDA to come speak about affordable housing projects that are currently active and/or in the planning process.

Ericsson explained that the Carver County CDA manages the apartment buildings in the City of Waconia that are attached to the City Hall building.

The commission agreed to invite someone for the Carver County CDA to do a presentation.

### 3. Survey for Seniors

The Commission reviewed the included draft survey within their packets and provided some final revisions suggestions. The Commission agreed that the next process would be to finalize the format of the survey and how it should be distributed.

### 4. Senior Spring Dance

Reisdorf introduced this item to the Commission for continued review and discussion.

There was discussion on what type of music should be requested. Boerner recommended Country, Waltz, and Polka.

The Commission discussed a country theme called "Not Your Last Rodeo". There was discussion about getting bandanas and other county themed decorations.

The Commission agreed to reach out to the following organizations for sponsorships: Watertown Clinic, Grocery Store, Lions Club, Bremer Bank, Citizens Bank, and Pharmacy.

The Commission agreed to coffee, lemonade, and water as beverages and cookies and bars for treats.

The Commission agreed to have the hours be between 1 pm – 4 pm.

### 5. Other Business

Ericsson provided information on an upcoming, monthly economic assistance initiative at the Carver County libraries. He stated that the partnership for the initiative is between the library and Carver County Health and Human Services. He stated that the programs are meant to help with the application process for assistance benefits like SNAP, cash, and Health Care.

Ericsson provided the commissioners with the library's summer program brochure. He reviewed different program offerings for different ages/groups.

Ericsson provided information on an upcoming book sale sponsored by the library.

Ericsson did a review of the library's annual report. He informed that the library had over 1 million checkouts throughout the year.

Plumer announced that new guidelines have come out on the recent COVID booster and that those who are 65+ are now approved for the booster.

Schimmel provided information from a recent conference that took place in the metro area. He informed that the conference discussed topics such as elder law (presented by a City Attorney) and fraud prevention sponsored by AARP.

There was discussion about having Community Education offering seminars on these topics.

Ericsson stated that if Community Education is not able to, that the library may be interested in offering these seminars.

6. Adjourn

**A motion by Boerner to end the meeting at 4:44 p.m. was made. Favorit Seconded. Motion passed 9-0.**

**309 Lewis Avenue S, Watertown, MN 55388**