

CITY OF WACONIA
MINUTES OF SCHEDULED MEETING
COMMISSION ON AGING
June 8, 2021

Members Present: Barbara Halper, Al Kaluza, Steve Hebeisen, Phylcia Binotto, Marilyn Talarico, Vicky Polunc

Members Absent:

Council Liaison: Peter Leo

Staff Present: Jackie Schulze

Call Meeting to Order

Halper called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Barbara Halper was appointed as chair of commission. Marilyn Talarico was appointed as vice chair.

Angie Cruzen – Food Shelf Programs

Angie Cruzen from the Waconia Food Shelf presented on the food shelf and some of the new programs they are implementing. She stated she is learning a lot about the 65+ population. The food shelf serves anyone living within the school district and attempts to keep who they are helping local because most of the donors are local. She also talked about the new mobile delivery option, specifically targeted towards the senior population.

Angie stated that the income guidelines they follow are 300% of poverty line, families of 4 leave with 100 pounds of food. The food shelf serves 185 families a month but has seen a decrease in visits since January.

Hebeisen asked what the food shelf does for promotions. Angie stated that the place ads and get articles in the Waconia Patriot and use social media as a tool. Kaluza asked about needs. Angie stated that they put a needs list on their website and social media. Leo asked how new people learn about the food shelf. Cruzen stated that a lot of it is promotion and word of mouth. Binotto suggested that the food shelf partner with the activity directors at nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Cycling without Age Program

Michelle Weinrich was back at this meeting to discuss any progress on the Cycling without Age program. She reached out to several assisted living facilities and nursing homes in the area about the program, but they all declined for now. It is difficult to contact people, so she is thinking of starting her own fundraiser, and applying for grant assistance programs. It is difficult to start your own non-profit, which is what she feels she needs to do to seek donations. She is going to come back with some information from the other cities who run the program, and Jackie will reach out to them to find out more details on how the City is involved and how insurance works.

Board Updates

Halper would like to see the Commission focus on the issue of safety and the senior population, specifically safety and security, taking safety precautions, locking doors, etc.

Hebeisen asked about how the Commission sets priorities and Schulze provided background on the past priorities (communication, transportation, and senior center space) and said that at the next meeting, she would bring back the Talking About my Generation Survey results and the Commission could discuss what they want to focus on for additional priorities.

Adjourn

Motion by Halper, second by Talarico to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Schulze
Assistant City Administrator