



Town of Windsor
Commission on Aging and Persons with Disabilities
Special Meeting
November 12, 2024

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Kathy Roby, Lois Arsenault, Amy Silliman Avedisian, Marsha Brown, and Linda Massa

Commissioners Excused: None

Commissioners Unexcused: Marva Douglas

Liaison Present: Rebecca Joyce

Also Present: None

Called to order at 7:10pm by Chairperson Kathy Roby

Communication from Commissioners: Commissioner Brown commented on the Aging in Place program that the COAPD sponsored at the Windsor Senior Center. She suggested that updated handouts be provided at future educational programs to better inform attendees about available resources and services. To ensure these materials are both comprehensive and relevant, Commissioner Brown expressed her willingness to work on creating an outline for the updated handouts. She also mentioned that he will reach out to the Social Services Coordinator to see if similar resources or handouts already exist, in order to avoid duplication and to ensure consistency with other ongoing initiatives. This topic will be added to the December agenda.

Chairperson Roby shared a recent observation from reading the Windsor Journal, where she came across an article beneath a photograph taken during the Voter Rights presentation sponsored by the Commission on Aging and Persons with Disabilities at the Windsor Senior Center. The article included a letter that expressed support for Council Member Len Walker, and it appeared to suggest that he had developed and originated the program. Chairperson Roby clarified that, as the Commission is a non-political, bipartisan group, the program was a collaborative effort by the Commission, Senior Center and other town departments, not an initiative solely attributed to any one individual. Given the Commission's neutral stance, Chairperson Roby felt it would be appropriate to submit a rebuttal to the newspaper, requesting that the editor publish a clarification to ensure the public is fully informed about the nature of the program and the Commission's role in its development.

Communication from Liaison:

Liaison Joyce provided an update on Senior Services, highlighting several key developments. She shared that a new steam table is being installed in the LP Wilson kitchen, which will enhance the efficiency and quality of meal service at the Senior Center. Liaison Joyce also discussed recent changes to the Senior Center lunch program, which are designed to ensure the continuity of this vital service despite cutbacks from the current provider. Additionally, she announced the retirement of George Headley, the previous Senior Transportation Coordinator, and the official appointment of Ro Elkey as his successor. Liaison Joyce expressed confidence in Ro's ability to maintain the high standard of service for the senior community.

Communication from the Public: None

Approval of the Minutes from the October 8, 2024 Regular Meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2024 Regular Meeting was made by Commissioner Silliman Avedisian and seconded by Commissioner Arsenault. The motion passed 5/0/0.

Old Business:

CVS Windsor Update

Commissioner Massa provided an update on the CVS window project, noting that due to the Loomis Chaffee students' time wrapping up at the Windsor Senior Center, it is uncertain whether the students will be able to assist with the artwork as originally planned. She also shared that Deb Delucia from First Town Downtown confirmed that the window is reserved until August 2025. Commissioner Massa expressed hope to receive the dimensions for the window, but as of the meeting, she had not yet been successful in obtaining them. Liaison Joyce mentioned that she may need to reconnect with her contact at Loomis Chaffee to explore alternative solutions. In the meantime, Commissioner Silliman Avedisian also offered to reach out to the Art Department at Windsor High School to inquire about potential student involvement in the project.

Mental Health Program

Commissioner Arsenault provided the group with an "Information Discovery Report for Potential Mental Health Initiative" and reviewed her findings with the group. A discussion ensued. Commissioner Arsenault suggested that the focus should be on mental health for all ages. This topic will be added to the December agenda for further discussion.

Crosswalk Flags

Chairperson Roby provided an update on her research regarding the crosswalk flags program. She shared that she had received a set of documents from Susan Vicker, a former commissioner of the COAPD, which included historical information about the program. Chairperson Roby explained that the first boxes and flags were installed around 2006. Following up on the issue of missing flags, Chairperson Roby recently contacted the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Engineering Department, reporting that flags were missing from their original locations. She noted that while flags have been added at the Broad Street location, the location near the library has not yet been addressed. Chairperson Roby expressed her desire to see the missing flags replaced at this location as well. She is currently awaiting a response from the Engineering Department, as DPW is no longer involved in the project. Chairperson Roby will provide an update on the matter at the next meeting but she is suggesting that the group be present at the next meeting pertaining to the Windsor Road Diet.

Alzheimer's Book Event at Windsor Senior Center

As mentioned in previous month's minutes, Commissioner Arsenault shared that her friend, John, who authored a book inspired by several visits with his mother who experienced Alzheimer's disease, is interested in participating in a program at the Windsor Senior Center. Commissioner Arsenault will connect John with the Activities Specialist at the Senior Center to discuss potential dates for scheduling the event. This program aims to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and offer valuable insights to seniors and their families.

Loomis Chaffee School Leadership Program Video

Chairperson Roby provided an update on the video project being developed by a student from the Loomis Chaffee School Leadership Program. She followed up with Mike Donegan, who explained that the student responsible for the project is currently busy with her classes and other commitments. However, Mike assured Chairperson Roby that once the student is able to complete the video, she will share it with the group. Chairperson Roby will continue to monitor the progress and provide further updates as needed.

January Income Tax Educational Program – Windsor Senior Center

A special program is scheduled to take place at the Windsor Senior Center in January 2025, which will be presented by a dedicated volunteer from the AARP Tax Aide Program. This informative session will provide attendees with essential information about the tax preparation services offered by AARP volunteers, specifically geared toward seniors. The program will cover a range of topics, including the documents required to have your income tax return completed by AARP Tax Aide volunteers, such as Social Security statements, and other relevant financial documents. In addition to outlining the necessary paperwork, the session will also highlight the eligibility requirements, the process for scheduling an appointment, and other important details to ensure that participants are well-prepared for their tax filing. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and gain a clear understanding of how to access this valuable service.

New Business:

Windsor Resource Booklet 2025 Edition

Chairperson Roby will separate the sections and assign to individuals for review. This will be discussed in the upcoming meetings.

New Program Ideas for 2025

A discussion regarding this topic ensued including Support Groups offered in Windsor. Liaison Joyce mentioned that she recalled Social Services offering a Diabetic Support Group and Caregivers Support Groups pre-COVID. She also mentioned that currently, the Senior Center offers Bereavement Support and a Parkinson's Support Group, as well as a variety of Alzheimer's educational programs. Chairperson Roby will follow up with Cheryl Rosenbaum from the Caring Connection as well as the Social Services Department regarding a Caregivers Support Group.

Motion to adjourn the meeting:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 was made by Commissioner Arsenault and seconded by Commissioner Silliman Avedisian. The motion passed 5/0/0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Joyce