



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

## Meeting Minutes COMMITTEE ON AGING

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?  
Who does not have a voice at the table?  
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

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Wednesday, March 24, 2021

2:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Staff:** Sally Jo Spaeni, Laura Hunt, John Weichelt,  
**Guests:** Margaret Zutter, Diana Jost

**Present:** 10 - Michael E. Verveer; Nasra Wehelie; Kathleen Whitt; Kathleen A. Poi;  
Donna C. Bryant; Charlestine (Charlie) Daniel; Felicitus Ferington; Faisal A.  
Kaud; Ya Chen and Eileen D. Mershart

**Absent:** 2 - Blinda H. Beason and Alnisa T. Allgood

1. [64690](#) Approval of Minutes- February 24, 2021

**Attachments:** [February 24, 2021- CoA Minutes.pdf](#)

**Bryant motions to Approve the minutes; Poi seconds. Motion carries by Voice Vote.**

2. [61825](#) Public Comment

None

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

3. [64694](#) Introduce Nasra Wehelie- District 7 Alder, as a new committee member

4. [64695](#) Introduce Ms. Charlie Daniel, as a new committee member

5. [64696](#) RSVP- Presentation on 2020 highlights and 2021 priorities

**Zutter and Jost introduce and present services available through RSVP, a federally funded, volunteer-driven organization under the AmeriCorps Seniors umbrella.**

**Programs include: Community Connections, Bridge Buddies and Food Bridge (in partnership with NewBridge), driver services and more.**

**Goals for 2021 include: recruiting new and previous volunteers, media campaigns, three Bus Buddies trips, and outreach to area cultural centers,**

veterans programs, and Porchlight.

6. [55504](#) Review Available Reports

Attachments: [Feb Activity Reports.pdf](#)

Spaeni reports virtual program attendance is continuing to increase. Staff have worked together to optimize data collection and in enrolling new participants.

7. [64697](#) Voices of Color presentation

Hunt presents new MSC program- Voices of Color, an interview-style series with community members that began in February and will be ongoing; continuing monthly.

Committee members suggest connecting with grassroots leaders, recruiting speakers with diverse backgrounds, and possible try a panel discussion at some point.

8. [64698](#) Racial Equity Analysis update

Spaeni reports on community outreach efforts and takeaways which include:

- Lack of awareness of MSC, and other agencies in the community serving older adults and the resources available
- Lack of understanding about how the resources offered by MSC and other agencies correlate to ones' ability to age in place in a safe and healthy way
- Estimated percentage of older adults in Madison unconnected to healthy aging resources is 75-85%
- Estimated percentage of older adults of color in Madison unconnected to healthy aging resources is 85-95%
- Need for city-wide community education and outreach. Healthy aging is a social justice issue and opportunities should be available to all older adults regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, income level, education level, or zip code.

Reports that connecting with communities of color has been difficult and seeks input from CoA. Members suggest partnering with United Way, fostering dialogue between community groups and congregations, and reiterate a grassroots approach. Members advise it will be a (years) long process, and encourage and appreciate the continuing efforts.

Spaeni reported that the Older Adult RFP process is still on hold and will likely be revised due to the information gathered during this equity process. City of Madison is very interested in funding services that in particular serve older adults of color, and organizations led by people of color. She reports she is still working to identify any such organizations that are supporting older adults of color in the community and asks for referrals if members are aware of such entities.

## ADJOURNMENT

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