

CITY OF WACONIA
MINUTES OF SCHEDULED MEETING
COMMISSION ON AGING
March 18, 2021

Members Present: Marylin Talarico, Barbara Halper, Al Kaluza

Members Absent: Tiffany Nelson, Phylcia Binotto

Council Liaison: Peter Leo

Staff Present: Jackie Schwerm

Call Meeting to Order

Halper called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Schulze indicated that she would be more comfortable waiting on this item until all members are present.

Cycling without Age Program

Michelle Weinrich shared a presentation with members. CWA is a worldwide nonprofit movement that aims to provide joy and vitality to seniors and less mobile members of the community. Combating loneliness and isolation building new relationships, breaking down the stigma associated with aging, and benefiting community health. Volunteers bring passengers out for a ride on a specially designed bike, with a pedal assist battery, called a Trishaw.

As of April 2019:

- 42 countries participate in CWA programs.
- Over 1,500-chapter locations around the world.
- Over 2,200 trishaws.
- Over 10,000 volunteers involved.
- Over 60,000 elderly people have been on rides.
- 2019 there were 4 affiliates in Minnesota and today there are 44 affiliates.

These are free rides. There is absolutely no cost to riders. It is a 100% voluntary community initiative. Waconia would include trips to City Square Park or Lake Waconia Regional Park as well as all the events Waconia has to offer through out the year.

There is a grant available (CMP) which Medicaid-certified nursing facilities can apply for. The CMP grant funding will cover half of the delivered cost of a new trishaw, and the costs of training and implementation assistance.

The cost of a trishaw is \$12,000.00. Looking for a fundraising taskforce and determining if there are any interested partnerships. The plan is to create community awareness with pamphlets and social media etc.

Schulze asked what support from the City is she looking for. Michelle responded that she is looking for a partnership and guidance.

Barbara Brooks suggested contacting We-Cab and checking if they may want to partner in this project.

Leo asked what other cities besides Wilmer in Minnesota is doing this? Michelle said there are 44 chapters in MN but not sure of all the cities involved.

Halper suggested googling charitable groups in Waconia and check with the different groups (Lions etc.) to see if they may be interested in helping with purchasing a bike.

Schulze added that the City would definitely be able to help promote the program after it is up and running.

Adjourn

Motion by Halper, second by Kaluza to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:45

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Schulze
Assistant City Administrator