

**RECEIVED**

*By City Clerks Office at 3:11 pm, Aug 14, 2025*

**Council on Aging Board Meeting  
Milano Center  
December 21, 2023, 8:00 a.m.**

**ATTENDEES**

**Board Members in Attendance**

John Capuano, Kristin Thorp, Margaret Ivins

Absent: David Kourtz, Ellen Cobau

**Other Attendees**

COA Director Erica Brown

Maura Sullivan

Called to order at 8:10 am by John Capuano President.

Minutes of the November 16, 2023 Board meeting – **in meeting packet**

**Motion to approve**– Kristin Thorp, seconded Margaret Ivins

Approved unanimously by all present

**Executive Directors Report**

Milano Center:

Winter Celebration December 12 had about 120 attendees. Great food. Friends of Milano Center will pay up to \$2000. Erica if finalizing bills.

Hamilton Hall Lecture Series – Dave Kourtz was instrumental in having the Milano Center designated as an additional remote location for 2024. The series runs 8 sessions in Feb and March. We will limit to 20 seats at each. We will charge a small fee. Also suggested a discount if sign up for all. Staff coverage cost will be managed by shifting hours. Can also use this as an example of needing to extend hours at the Center. Friends of Milano will pay the \$1000 fee.

Council on Aging:

Transportation for 2024 – making many changes including scheduling of the shopping shuttle, longer window for on-time pickups and small extension to medical destinations. Still looking for scheduling software. Kristin and Margaret will put some time into checking out options. MySeniorCenter scheduling is still not available and Erica is not hopeful about it's functionality.

UMB Needs Assessment expected in Feb.

Discussed Board members present and future

Maura Sullivan will be put forward by new mayor after inauguration in January, hope to get before City Council in January/February. 2024 – February John will be off. Nancy will be able to return. Will need one more.

Property Tax Write-off Program – This is a program for 65+ to work off up to \$1000 of real estate taxes per year. State is now allowing up to \$2000 per year. Working to increase the Melrose limit. There is no guarantee of a job if a senior applies. Council on Aging makes matches. Can't earn any money from the City and also do this write-off program because it is considered two jobs. The Mayor's office and Solicitor's office have begun the process of creating an exemption waiver. Also working with Bridge to add school jobs to this program, such as at Elementary School libraries.

**Friends of Milano Center – No report**

**Old Business – None**

**New Business – None**

Next meeting will be held at Milano Center 201 West Foster St 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at 8 am on Thursday January 18, 2024.

Meeting adjourned 9:05 am –Moved John Capuano, seconded Margaret Ivins, approved unanimously

Submitted by Kristin Thorp