

About half of the attendees had been a part of the City's programming in the past. When asked why more of them had not been involved, some of the responses included:

- They were busy with their kids' schedules.
- They wanted to spend their free time with their family, not alone. Many now have adult children and are looking for ways to connect.
- Awareness. Some did not know about events or hadn't scheduled attendance ahead of time. Preferred communication channels for the group included social media (Facebook and Instagram), email notifications, and Engage.
- Would like more flexibility of attendance. Offer more drop-in classes that don't require registration or regular visits. Sometimes they were looking for something to do and would like to decide last minute to attend a class or card game.

When asked for ideas of the kinds of programming they would like to see for older adults, several options were described including:

- Art and music exhibits from local talent and from SE Asian artists.
- A definition between Older Active Adult and Leisure Adult activities.
- More outdoor activities. Better traffic crossings were mentioned as a safety precaution that would encourage walking.
- More parks.
- More benches along walking paths.
- More active indoor activities during the winter months. An indoor walking track would be useful, as would open-swim hours and access to sports courts.

Compliments were given to the OAS transportation team for being friendly and helpful in arranging rides.

It was expressed that there is a certain stigma attached to the "55+" label on some programs. One attendee said "55+ means old people" and it might discourage some younger Seniors from taking part. An 18+ age group would be more welcoming. For those on the bubble, it leaves some wondering if they are too young or too old to participate. Perhaps instead of dividing classes by age, people would react better if they used levels (e.g. Advanced Zumba and Beginner Zumba).

When discussing wants and needs for a location, whether it is a Senior Center or Community Center, several selling points were named. The Summit in Canton was referenced as an community inclusive space that residents were willing to pay a fee to use. Some of the must have amenities named were:

- A beautiful location with lots of natural light.
- An indoor pool
- Indoor walking track
- Gym space (basketball, volleyball, pickleball, etc)
- Older adult weight room
- Family friendly as well as Adult only spaces
- Performing Arts Center
- Comfortable café, grab a drink and chat with whomever is there.
- Electronic free spaces

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

Transcribed by Melissa Morris, Deputy City Clerk

Date approved: March 25, 2024

DRAFT