

BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 2019
(JUNE 4, 2019)

2019 JUL 16 AM 9:58

1. **Call to Order:** 7:01 pm
2. **Attendees:** Chair, Chao-Qiang Lai, J. Singler, J. Semuels, E. Hamann, P. Solomon, E. Sullivan, M. Scali,, T. Olson. Ex-officios N. Niv-Vogel, Director, D. Leavitt, Assistant Director, Guest Sarah Goldberg (COA Social Worker Intern)
3. **Senior Citizen Concerns:**
 - People excited about Chao's Nutrition program- they have been well attended. Programs are being televised through Belmont Media. Chao reported that there were very insightful questions from attendees. Next presentation is June 18- How what you eat affects your Immune System. July's presentation will be nutrition for your eyes.
 - Assistant Director, Dana Leavitt was recognized for receiving her Master's Degree and a cake was presented to her.
 - Update on Landscaping: Money needs to be spent by end of June. Phyl is working with Nancy Forbes to put together plan. Projects include: filling island and other gaps with concrete, planting, etc..
 - Bucket truck (that was used to do some tree work) is blocking 2 parking spaces in parking lot and Nava is trying to get it removed. Board suggested Nava call Floyd Carman (Treasurer) to issue a warning to the truck before having it ticketed.
 - Phyl distributed sunflower seeds that were leftover from an event at the Chenery Courtyard today.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Mary Ann reported that there is approximately \$30 left in account.
5. **Review of Meeting Minutes:**
 - May minutes reviewed and approved. April minutes were reviewed and approved as amended. Several Board Members brought to everyone's attention that Meeting Minutes are not posted on Town Website. Nava will investigate.
6. **Assistant Director's Report:**

May events included a Mother's Day Tea, the Singing Trooper, Pickle Ball Demonstration, a Nutrition Program, "Nash with Nava", and a Kentucky Derby Party.

June events include a Pride and Pizza Party, the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Father's Day Strawberry Shortcake and Barber Shop Quartet, Travelling Planetarium celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the landing on the Moon, Special Viewing of the Belmont Dancing With the Stars, Tufts Nutrition Series and Author Dick Lehr.

July events include a Meet and Greet with the new Assistant Town Manager and Recreation Department Director John Marshall, Beatles Tribute Band, Farmer's Market Demo, Sock Hop Party, Summer BBQ, and Senator Brownsberger Visit to discuss the Senior Charlie Pass Day.

7. Director's Report:

- Nava introduced Sarah Goldberg, Simmons Social Worker Intern for the COA.
- Town Day Information Booth went well- weather was good and people really lingered. Suggest giving out something to attract people to booth in the future.
- Police Chief Search Committee: 3 COA members have submitted applications to be on Search Committee.
- Nava mentioned that the Rabbi who did the April Passover program is the same Rabbi who had 2 fires at his house in Arlington over the last month. Nava sent a card to the Rabbi and his family.
- Update on Social Worker Request: Select Board said there is no money. Nava mentioned that we could use \$22,000 from Formula Grant. Select Board said that maybe the Housing Authority could share the Social Worker Position. Select Board was not prepared to appropriate money towards Social Worker position- but if Housing Authority was willing to share position and COA could use Formula Grant money, Town would be willing to bridge the gap (if it was around \$5000 or so.) Judy mentioned that Springwell might be willing to fund a social worker in Housing Positions- not able to fund a full position- needs to be a partnership. A full-time position would cost around \$72,000 (\$20,000 worth of benefits included in this amount). Select Board agrees that there is a need for the Social Worker- it's just a matter of money.

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8. Friends Report:

- Joel reported that their next meeting is June 13th. The Spring Newsletter is out. Fall Concert will be held Sept. 12 : Tom Nutile Band featuring Jim Bramante (Al Natale will be in attendance). Crafts Fair will be Nov. 23.

- Mary Ann expressed concern that Friends' Volunteers should be included in the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Nava explained that the EOE (Executive Office of Elder Affairs) mandates volunteers to donate at least 20 hours of their time to be included in the Appreciation Dinner.

9. Springwell:

- Judy reported that Springwell is continuing their search for a CEO- interim person will be used for a few months. Springwell got an AWARD: the n4A (National Association for Area Agencies on Aging) Innovation and Achievement Award- Recognized for their work partnering with chronically ill patients to improve health and well-being. Springwell worked closely with Beth Israel Medical Deaconess to provide health coach staff who worked 1:1 with patients who are struggling to manage chronic conditions.

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10. Planning Board Meeting Re Housing Development on McLean: ---
Nothing new to report

11. Email Scams: Mary Ann suggested holding a program to educate Seniors about email scams (i.e. chimney scams). Also, receiving lots of scam phone calls. Dana agreed that this was a good idea and will research putting together a program. It was also suggested to put an article in the monthly newsletter.

12. Transportation:

- Town Counsel responded and said that we could move forward with volunteer driver program. He saw no issues with liability.
- Motion was made to approve the concept of a Volunteer Driver Program for the Belmont Council on Aging subject to the development of the appropriate terms and conditions of the program. Motion was Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Next meeting is Monday, July 8 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Sullivan