

DATE: August 23, 2021
TIME: 9:54 AM

Minutes Council on Aging Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Present: Chao-Qiang Lai, Chair: Michael Cahalane, Ethel Hamann, Tomi Olson, Joel Semuels (by phone) Ellen Sullivan, Judi Singler, Mark Paolillo, Maryann Scali, Nava Niv-Vogel, Director and Dana Leavitt, Assistant Director. (D. Petto hosted this Zoom meeting)
Absent: Phyl Solomon, Ted Dukas

The meeting called to order at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Senior Center Concerns: donating money in Memoriam discussed.

Newsletter done when possible.

Treasurer's report-\$60

Review of past meeting minutes- approved-Tomi Olson

Updates and Correspondence

A. Director-Nava-Niv-Vogel-When school is closed so is the Center. All activities are cancelled.

The Center is open to Staff only at this time. As Town offices are planning to open we are a **model** for how staff can operate safely since we have been doing this since mid-March. We wash hands, surfaces in Center etc. Nava reported on update with Town Administrator-P. Garvin.

Assistant Director-Dana Leavitt- reported on working with HS students talking to seniors.-Seniors are tuning in to Belmont TV-programs are being offered thru the Media Center.

Dana will work on Bulletin host or use Zoom.

Friends-Joel S.-having a meeting soon. The Friends are looking into ways to help provide money for a meal program.

Springwell-J. Singler-Most program remotely-discontinuing services not letting people in for their own safety.

Report on Belmont Housing Plan-Housing Trust asking to use CPA money for paying rent to be voted on at TM.

McLean is modifying plans for that development. This will be discussed in the Fall at TM.

Old Business:-The project of putting together a 10 anniversary report for Town -wide distributions currently on hold on account of the pandemic. The board discussed possibly waiting to put together a report for the 15th anniversary milestone of the opening of the center instead.

Age-Friendly-Nava -grant application for park benches changed at Town field delayed 'till May 15th.

New Business: May 18th is the date the governor announces his plan for first phase of opening businesses. It is unclear at this time what the plan is.? Chao voiced concerns and caution about how to manage any opening of the center, as seniors are the most vulnerable part of the population.

Questions asked were-How do we manage the Center? How do we maintain small numbers in groups, social distancing? (If and when center opens)

What is the Town's Policy?

Any employee over 60 may stay home. COA vehicles are wiped down twice/day. Every service to seniors involving an exchange (by appointment) is made outside the building, using a card table at the entrance and protocol that involves no physical contact. Nava is trying to work something out about how provide several services that are difficult to do outside the center such as seniors getting their taxes done through AARP volunteers. About 10 seniors have asked for this service.

It is too early to decide to opening and when? Board said Virus is too deadly-we need guidelines if and when we open!!!

We are inventing guidelines as we go along. We will do whatever is best for the Center!

B. Masks for Seniors- Great contribution from Asian community and members of the Center.

Staff Appreciation lunch cancelled.

What can we do to help? Needed Database entry - Ellen S. volunteered.

Help answering the phone calls- will find volunteers

Meals- seniors not happy with quality of meals

Springwell cannot use its own kitchen.

Suggestion: Ways to help Seniors with meals-*Belmont Helps*-get vouchers so they can use them in local business for meals.

Motion: COA establish a process for those Seniors who need meals-vouchers-working with Belmont Helps etc. and the Friends of the COA. made by M. Paolillo -and seconded Unanimous. Joel from the Friends will report on their contribution-we may schedule another meeting to vote on that process.

Next meeting-Monday, June 1st 7pm

Adjourned 9:02 pm

Respectfully submitted: Maryann Scali pro-tem