

Council on Aging
October 2, 2017
Minutes

2019 JUL 25 PM 2:13

In attendance: Carolyn Bunyon, Mike Cahalane, Ted Dukas, Ethel Hamann, Tomi Olson, Chao Qiang-Lai, Mary Ann Scali, Judy Singler, Phyl Solomon, Jim Staton
Absent: Joel Semuels

The Minutes were accepted with minor edits.

Community Education Steering Committee. The Board heard a report from Lillian who reported on the collaboration of COA, Adult Ed, and Recreation in offering programs to the community. Maryann suggested that different levels be offered for computer education.

Senior Tax Rebates. It was decided that the Assessors should take up the issue of senior tax rebates as suggested by Mr. Don Mercier. He will attend their next meeting and report on this issue.

Nava reiterated the **eligibility income status for the Tax Work-off program.** She suggested that it should be raised. Currently it is at \$57K. Nava believes that it should go to \$80K. Seniors receive the minimum wage.

Nava will speak with the Assessor and report back to the Board.

Nava reported on Springwell's **transportation rides for seniors** to the hospitals in the Longwood area and to Lahey. Veterans taxi is not approved to transport seniors. Both McCues and Veterans do not have handicapped accessibility. Busy Bees did do transportation but is no longer available to this area. The Belmont Board of Selectmen must approve the taxi companies. Nava would like to have more companies available with handicapped accessibility. The Town Administrator is checking.

Pay as you Throw issue: Joel to testify at the PAYT as negative for our seniors. We should advise our seniors that they can get "recycling" stickers.

Re COA Benches for a CPA request. The Highway Department advised Nava that they get benches all the time. 2 benches will go to PQ and 2 will go to Grove Street.

Grounds beautification. COA will wait for Gerry Boyle's replacement to address this issue again.

The Al Natale concert was well attended. It grossed \$3570 and netted \$1465. This year the committee went after bigger money. As a result less was taken in. Next year the committee will seek out smaller donations

Crafts Fair will be Saturday Nov 18 from 9 to 3p.

Springwell will celebrate its 40th anniversary in November.

Protective Services: All Intakes for will be done at the State level then referred out to the local areas to ensure that procedures are consistent.

Looking at other COAs The working group reported on their visits to senior centers in Arlington, Brookline and Waltham. *Waltham's* center is on Main Street in a former school building. They have a huge parking problem but the Mayor has arranged for added parking. They found the Director to be welcoming. Their basement has a putting green, ping pong table, and an indoor bocci court. The Director advised the WG that "We serve those who need us. We reach out to those who have no other place to go. We would like to do more outreach for seniors. "

Arlington shares space with Health and Human services in a former school. Programming is more focussed on educational prorams including LGBT programming. The Senior Center provides recreational programming by partnering with the Recreation Dept. Minuteman (like Springwell)

provides the meals. It is known as the Arlington Senior Association and includes a Director, 2 Social Workers. 55% of funds come from the Town. The remainder comes from grants. Their annual fundraising amounts to \$5K. They believe they serve 11000 seniors

Brookline started an extended community which includes members from the Health department, the Police department, Recreation, the School Department, and the Selectmen. They have coordinated a Middle School pen pals program with seniors. They offer evening hours from May through October using “flex” hours. They also track volunteer opportunities and keep track of hours that volunteers work. They provide for donations with a bucket for large items. Their Food Pantry has a "branch" in their Center. They also have parking problems. They offer a Memory Café and use Springwell for their food. Their fitness program is bigger than Belmont.

The **Nominating Committee** will be comprised of Phil, Ethel, and Carolyn. They will report their Slate in November and the Board will vote in December.

Next Meeting: November 8.

Nava reported that the **rugs and floors at the Center needing to be done** will cost \$10000. Somehow this request fell through the cracks. Nava suggested that we wait until Gerry Boyle's replacement is on board .

Respectfully submitted,

Tomi Olson