

## **Council on Aging Board Meeting**

**Monday, March 3, 2008**

Present: J. Brusch, H. Dvorak, E. Hamann, N. Hegarty, H. Kazarian, A. Lougee, B. Miranda, N. Niv-Vogel, Director, J. Semuels, Chair, P. Solomon, Vice-Chair

Absent: J. Horner, J. Kantor

The meeting called to order by Chair 7:35 PM

The minutes of February's meeting were reviewed and accepted.

There were no citizens concerns to present.

There was a discussion of the February 6 meeting of the chairperson of the Belmont COA Board and Director of the Senior Center with the subcommittee of the Warrant Committee.

Concern for the possibility of a \$7500 cut in the budget of the COA was expressed.

Concern was expressed regarding possible misunderstanding of the mission of the COA by members of the Warrant Subcommittee.

The instruments of establishing the Belmont COA were reviewed by the COA Chairperson discussion regardless of the mandates and purpose of the COA.

The Springwell Report was presented. The Springwell budget is on track. There is a vigorous strategic planning process occurring.

A hearing on the state's protective services will be held at the senior Center on Tuesday, April 8 by Springwell. The event is sponsored by Springwell in response to Representative Brownsberger's wish to learn about the service.

There was a discussion of last month's meeting of the Board of the COA with the editor of the Belmont Herald regarding the termination of Richard Griffin's column. Nava and Joel reported that following the board meeting Mr. Schinella offered that in lieu of Mr. Griffin's syndicated column a new column by a Belmont resident would be written. Nava asked if the board approved the launch of a new, local column to be authored by a Belmont resident, writer and family caregiver who she has known and vetted. The board approved a trial launch of a column using this new writer.

Discussion of the plans for ground breaking ceremony for the new Senior Place Center on March 25th was conducted by Anne Lougee.

Ralph Jones, Chairman of the Warrant Committee, joined the Board Meeting at 8:30 PM for the purpose of promoting a better understanding of the roles of the COA and of the Warrant Committee. Several ways of achieving this were discussed including Mr. Jones spending time at the Senior Center to familiarize himself with the many programs and functions of the COA. Mr. Jones presented a perspective of the challenging fiscal times that underlie the fiduciary responsibility of the Warrant Committee and its vigorous approach to budgetary responsibility.

The resignation of Joe Horner from the COA Board was announced and regrettably accepted.

It was resolved to make a donation by the COA Board members to the new Senior Center in appreciation of all the services that Joe rendered to the seniors of Belmont.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM

John L. Brusch, Secretary

