

Minutes  
Council on Aging Meeting  
July 11, 2011

Members present:~ M. Cahalane,V. DeNovellis,E. Hamann,D. Leclerc,A.Lougee,A. Mullin, T. Olson, P. Schafer, J. Semuels

Absent: N. Hegarty, A. Scali

~Joel Semuels,chair, called the meeting to order.

~There were no senior citizen concerns.

~The Minutes from the prior meeting were accepted as amended.

Joel congratulated Angela, Ethel, Vincent and Tomi for their re-appointment to the COA Board for a term of 3 years.

~The Board was advised that Jim Staton presented a Memorandum of Understanding to the Selectmen that they accepted. ~The Friends then paid the Town the last \$50,000 installment of the \$1million that the Friends raised for the Senior Center.~ The MOU is contingent upon the Town of Belmont's assurance that the Beech Street Center facility will operate as a senior center until the year 2049, when the value of the Center will be fully depreciated.

Included in this MOU is a requirement that a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting is required for a change of use of the Center .~ Of the \$6.2 million total cost for the Center, the Friends have contributed \$1million

~Nava gave the Director's report.

Trash has been a major issue.~ After meeting with Building and Grounds, the Board of Health and the Planning Board it was concluded that trash will now be stored in the equipment room.~ The Portable Shed will now house the snow blower. The Director will follow up with Springwell about taking responsibility for the trash they generate.~ Procedures will be developed to reduce the odor of the trash.~ The question of Renter's responsibility for their trash needs to be weighed against how desirable or undesirable the Center becomes for Renters with such a policy in place for them.

~The Board was reminded that Nathaniel Meyer and his orchestra will perform a Classical Concert at the Center on August 13 and 14.

~The Director reported that parking in the merchant centers of Belmont has been raised as an issue of whether seniors should be allowed more time allowed than 1 hour.~ Some seniors felt that one hour is too short.~ The possibility of using stickers to identify senior vehicles was suggested since neighboring towns use them.~ More research on this is needed before it can be brought to the Selectmen or the Traffic Advisory Committee.

~

The Director advised the Board that the new Editor of the Belmont Citizen, Joanna Tzouvellis is seeking to do interesting stories on people in Belmont.~ It was suggested that Al Natale be recommended to her for a possible story.

~

The Director also advised the Board that Senior Scene, run through Massachusetts Elder Affairs will host a television program on July 18 ~regarding civic engagement.~ Nava will be interviewed at that recording.

~Fitness Room Working Group:

~Joel informed the Board that the YMCA is firm on their price and sent a letter to ask if the COA could make up the difference.~Joel confirmed that we are no longer negotiating with the YMCA and are seeking other options. Joel suggested that another option might be an arrangement with the Recreation Department.

~

Tomi has contacted Middlesex Rehab and Wendy Wood both of whom run Physical Therapy programs.~ There are both advantages and complications in offering PT as part of the Physical Fitness program.~ As an advantage, insurance can be billed.~ Medicare Guidelines would need to be observed.

She also contacted several local fitness locations: Planet Fitness, Tokyo Joe (Frank Manzelli), Lisa Pargoli (Registered Personal Trainer), Terry at Brookhaven who has been doing this work for a number of years.~ She has a few other names of Trainers who work with seniors in a similar environment.~ This may be the most promising avenue for the Fitness Center given the experience with similar clientele.~ Tomi will follow up and report back with names and contact information to the Fitness Group at the next meeting.

~Rentals

~The Rentals program has reached the 6 month mark. ~A written report was disseminated to the Board.

~The Director has received comment from Kristen regarding the extra workload required by including the rental process/paperwork in her job.~ Additionally it was felt that the process itself is cumbersome, especially since there appear to be 10 inquiries for every 1 booking. Questions to consider:~ Should one person handle all Town buildings bookings?~ Is there an online solution? Should the administrative costs be increased for Out-of-Town rentals? Since many of the meetings scheduled are for other town committees /departments, should the department budgets share~the administrative cost?

~Ethel suggested reporting the issue to Tom Younger without a recommendation.~ She also suggested looking at the Jenks Center in Winchester since they are also a non-profit organization.

Joel charged the Rental sub group to come up with recommendations for the September 12 meeting.

~Director's Annual Review

~On July 20<sup>th</sup>, the Town Administrator will evaluate the Director for the purpose of annual raises to all non-management Town employees.~ The Board agreed that Dan LeClerc would attend the Evaluation in place of Joel, the COA Chair, who may be out of town if he cannot attend.

The Board was presented with draft procedures for future evaluation of the Director. They agreed to steps 1 through 8.~ Step 9 was added as “ At their September meeting the COA Board will initiate jointly with the Director the development of Goals and Objectives to be used in the Director’s coming year’s evaluation.”~ The Board agreed to Steps 1 through 9.~ The Director accepted and signed these procedures.

The Board also agreed to develop a Narrative in Executive Session for the Director’s evaluation.~ It was agreed that the Narrative would be discussed with Nava prior to the upcoming Evaluation with the Town Administrator.

The Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session to discuss the Director’s evaluation.at 8:25 PM.

The board resumed open session of the meeting at 8:55 PM.

~Bocce Court:

MaryAnn Scali, a member of the COA Board has collected 32 petitioners’ names for a Bocce Court at the Center.~ The cost will be minimal and could be provided by the BEC.~ The BEC is considering this proposal.~~ The Board moved and seconded the idea of a Bocce Court subject to funding from a private source or sources.

~A Nominating Committee will be appointed at the September meeting to nominate for the positions of COA Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer.~ The Slate will be presented in November, voted on in December, and the new officers will official take office in January.

~School Committee Liaison:~ The Chair will speak with the School Committee Chair to appoint a liaison.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 PM

~The next meeting is scheduled to be held on~ Monday September 12.

~Respectfully submitted,

Tommasina Olson