

DATE: October 12, 2022
TIME: 2:29 PM

Belmont CoA Board Meeting Minutes- Sept 12, 2022

Start at 7:15pm with a quorum of 6

Members Present (all via Zoom): Ellen Sullivan (acting chair), Dana Bickelman (ex-officio), Joel Semuels, Judy Morrison, Andrea Paschal, Karen Donelan, and Chao Qiang-Lai

Members Not Present: Mark Paolillo (Select Board liaison), Margie Wayne, Ted Dukas, Maryann Scali, Tomi Olson (Chair), Jane Shapiro

1. Senior Concerns- Maryann Scali - no formal report.

Board noted that an email sent to COA board by a senior resident with concerns on the ice cream social was addressed by Joel and Dana, and there has been no further inquiries or problems.

2. Review of past minutes-approved August 1, 2022, minutes as written.

3. Updates & Correspondence

a & b) Acting Director Report & Assistant Director Report - Dana Bickleman: Eight applications for volunteer coordinator, some interviews soon. No applicants for the social work position yet. New social work intern (creative arts) started today. Have been very busy.

c) Friends of the CoA - Joel Semuels: Belmont Media did an interview with Joel on the Sept 29th Tom Nutile Big Band concert. 11 corporate sponsors and 10 family sponsors. 13 people in the band, will be a great concert. Craft Fair is November 19. Karen Nichols is having a meeting this week, if interested, still looking for people to help, including volunteers to move tables on November 18th from 3-5pm. Hoping to get the Belmont Girls hockey team to help. Rosemary Dulac is doing bakery items. There may be an open board seat on the Friends board; if anyone is interested, contact Joel. Meets 3x per year, and at times virtually.

d.) Springwell- Jane Shapiro – NO REPORT

e.) Transportation Working Group- Ellen provided update. Margie, Marty, Judy, Dana and Ellen are meeting next week on the Volunteer Driver Program. Need to recruit new drivers and also communicate to the seniors that this would be available. Taxi Medical Rides – not sure of tally on incoming donations. Budget is good through the end of the year. Dana asked Accounting to set up a separate line item for tracking this budget.

f.) Age Friendly Action Committee - Judy Morrison
Still in process of getting representatives lined up. Looking for diversification of personnel, including someone from Housing Authority/Trust. Need a new representative

from Recreation. Hope to be done in the next month. Brochure being produced for updating home as one is aging. Got a grant to fund this. Partnering with League of Women Voters (Amy Grossman) on research the need for transportation to/from/around the retail hubs in town. Working on getting ER statistics on falls/injuries due to bad walking conditions. Any stats from police or fire? Judy will follow-up. Dana will be connecting with a school contact about safe student walking paths. After all this is gathered, will look at sidewalks. Peter from Library is helping to identify an app that might help coordinate all calendars. Idea of creating logos for AFAC and/or Senior Center. Think about funding for activities. AARP might have ideas on funding a study on communication plans and best practices. Board members provided ideas on resources (colleges with communications programs, high school media program). Town has hired a PR consultant on town communications; perhaps would have some recommendations. Dana will reach out about CoA and Senior Center needs. Still have an open seat – recommendations are appreciated.

4. Old business: [moved to end of meeting to allow Dana to step out.]

5. New business:

COA Budget update; Dana is unsure what Board is asking to see. Process is really just starting. She is finding out more about past process and will keep Board informed.

4. Old business):

Update on filling the director position - Tomi attended the last Select Board meeting, and Judy attended, and provided a recap. Town counsel gave a summary as to why things are different now than when the prior position was open. Town Administrator now has hiring authority over some town positions, and the CoA director is one of those. Joel is on the selection committee. Much discussion of the communication breakdown with a suggestion to communicate the selection process and position change to the senior community, perhaps via the newsletter. The CoA Board expresses willingness to work with Town Administrator on filling the open role.

6. Next meeting: *Monday, October 3rd at 7 p.m. on Zoom.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Andrea Paschal, Board member