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BELMONT, MA**

DATE: August 23, 2021

TIME: 9:55 AM

**Council on Aging  
Minutes**

February 3, 2020

**Venue:** Conference room, Beech Street Center

**Present:** Chao-Qiang Lai chair, E. Hamann, P. Solomon, T. Dukas, J. Semuels, J. Singler, M. Cahalane, E. Sullivan, T. Olson, M. Paolillo, N. Niv-Vogel, Director

**Absent:** M. Scali, D. Leavitt, Asst. Director  
Corrections

1. Call to Order: 7:00pm.

2. Senior Citizens Concerns

- M. Paolillo raised the concerns of seniors coming to the center after a snowstorm. He stated their fears of crossing the poorly plowed parking lot. He pointed out that overnight parking is a problem preventing plows from clearing the lot effectively, with which Nava and other Board members concurred. Mark suggested inviting Mike Santoro, and/or Jay Marcotte, to a Board meeting to discuss the problem. There was also some discussion of prohibiting overnight parking during winter months, or at least when there is a prediction for snow. The ban might be signaled via police robo calls.
- There will be a meeting of heads of the Assessor's office, the Water and Light Departments, Nava, and Town Treasurer, Floyd Carman, to discuss ways of making seniors aware of discounts available to them upon receiving services from these Town departments.
- Mass COA is supporting a bill (S. 1692) to raise income eligibility for tax exemptions. Nava will contact Will Brownsberger to discuss this pending legislation. Dave Rogers has proposed a similar bill in the House of Representatives.

3. Treasurer's Report

- M. Scali was absent from the meeting. Nava reported that the plaque awarded to high school students, for Inter-Generational Programming, cost \$82.00.

4. Minutes: January minutes were reviewed and approved as amended.

- Nava agreed to forward the minutes to Board members in timely fashion in order to give people time to review them prior to meeting.

5. Updates and Correspondence

A. Director

- Nava reported that the Center has, for a number of years, hosted trainees, seniors trying to get back into the workforce, through a federal program (Operation Able). Richard Berger, Media Specialist at the Center, is a former trainee. Recently, with little notice, a Center trainee was dropped from the program. In the past, Nava received 90 days' notice regarding discontinuing someone from the program. She was able to keep the trainee for two more weeks prior to the

termination. Mass DOT had a vehicle which had been turned down by a local agency and was subsequently offered to the Belmont COA, but the agency reconsidered and reclaimed the vehicle. M. Paolillo suggested that Nava might contact Will Brownsberger to find out if anything can be done about this situation.

- The Staff appreciation lunch has been scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2020. Board Members will bring food, drinks, and supplies for 25 people.

#### B. Assistant Director

- Dana was absent but her report can be seen on-line.

#### C. Friends

- The Friends newsletter will appear at the end of March.

#### D. Springwell

- Judy reported that there is no news.

#### E. volunteer driver program

- The program is growing, with an increasing number of rides provided: November 70, December 82, January 90. More drivers are needed, especially drivers willing to drive seniors into Boston for medical appointments.

### 6. Old Business

- The first meeting of the Committee for the Age Friendly Belmont Action Plan is scheduled for Tuesday February 4.
- The Board will wait for more information before making a decision on endorsing the Housing Trust Plan for the McLean property.
- There was further discussion of producing a ten-year senior center anniversary report. Nava will supervise production of this report.

### 7. New Business

- In response to concerns about the coronavirus, the COA cancelled its scheduled celebration of the Lunar New Year; however, many seniors have already avoided coming to the Center as a result of their concerns about this virus. Various guidelines for dealing with this situation have been vague. The Board passed a motion, suggesting a fourteen day self-quarantine for anyone coming from China and wishing to come to, or visit the Center.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm

Next meeting is Monday, March 2, 2020, 7pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Dukas