

DATE: August 23, 2021
TIME: 9:56 AM

COA Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2021

Present: Nava Niv-Vogel, Dana Leavitt, Mark Paolillo, E. Hamann, Ted Dukas, Judy Singler, Tomi Olson, Ellen Sullivan, Margie Wayne, Andrea Paschal and Maryann Scali, Chao-Qiang Lai

Guest: James MacIsaac (Police Chief)

Absent: Joel Semuels

1. Chair M. Paolillo called the meeting to order at 7:01pm
2. Mark introduced Police Chief – James MacIsaac, who introduced the new police station and his duties as the Chief.
Chief talked about five core priorities for Belmont Police Department: traffic, elderly, youth, people in crisis, and domestic violence. He talked about an example when working with a senior involving in a car accident. He also touched on COVID response, a social worker, phone scam toward seniors. In response to Chao's question on Asian Hate and violence against Asian in Belmont, Chief mentioned so far, no reported incidence like that has happened in Belmont. He mentioned recruiting Chinese translators when working with Chinese seniors. Nava indicated that Chief has always been very responsive to Chinese elderly community, and described how well the Chief handled the pedestrian fatal incident many years ago. Phone scams toward seniors should be reported. Robo-call has been used to warn seniors of phone scams and fraud. When it is not an emergency, please use 1212 (not 911). Kristin Daley serves as chief liaison between police department and the senior center.
3. Senior concerns: Maryann asked how to help with home-bound seniors to get their vaccination shots. The Board of Health used a relaxed version of the criteria to identify those seniors. There were only four persons who met such criteria and the Fire Department administered the vaccine.

Based on the decision from the Board of Health, the Beech Center won't open for senior activity through the end of May. But many outdoor programs are being conducted outside the building or via Zoom. The date when the Center can be open will be reviewed by the Board of Health in May. By now, over 60% of Belmont seniors are vaccinated.

4. Director's report: Nava updated and recapped further information besides the Director Report. The new Belderbus will be paid from Federal stimulus fund. But the vehicle won't be available until July. More volunteers are needed at the

Center right now. A volunteer survey will be sent out to volunteers for their availability and signing up for volunteer work. Nava indicated the budget meeting with the Town Budget subcommittee Bob McLaughlin went well without too many questions or concerns. The Age Friendly Report will be submitted to AARP tomorrow. The report is a blueprint to make Belmont a better place for elderly to live. Nava thanked Ellen and Judy and other members for their efforts.

5. Assistant Director's report: Dana indicated March was a quite month while April would be busy month for outdoor activity. Instructors will conduct programs outdoors (the parking lot) while participants stand 10 feet apart. Recreation Department will dedicate one section of the swimming pool for seniors.
6. Friends of COA: Nava indicated the Friends of COA Newsletter just came out. The Newsletter is published once a year. While Ellen suggested it be published twice a year, it is challenging to ask members to write for the Newsletter. Ellen would like to help with the Newsletter in future. The next meeting of Friends of COA Board will be held in June. The Craft Fair is planned on Saturday before Thanksgiving Day (November 20).
7. Springwell: Judy indicated not many new things have happened at Springwell recently. Springwell will get back to normal operation soon.
8. Vaccination plan: not much update with the plan other than noted in Senior concerns. Next Thursday will be the last day for the second dose to be administered at the Arlington Clinic.
9. Debrief on Candidate Forum: Belmont Media Center event went well except for a glitch at the end. MaryAnn raised the question if Mark is elected as Selectman, wouldn't a new chair be needed for the COA Board? This will be discussed in next meeting.
10. Meeting minutes for March 1 meeting were approved.
11. Next meeting Tuesday May 4, 7:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Note taker: Chao-Qiang Lai