

MINUTES COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING

March 2, 2020

Present: Chao-Qiang Lai, chair; Michael Cahalane, Ethel Hamann; Ted Dukas, Tomi Olson, Joel Semuels, Phyl Solomon, Maryann Scali, Ellen Sullivan; Nava Niv-Vogel, Director and Dana Leavitt, Assistant Director

Absent: Judi Singler, Mark Paolillo

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

Senior Center Concerns

1. Plowing at night time makes driveway very icy for activities going on at Center
2. Try not to schedule meetings all in one day on top of each other
3. Human Services in Belmont get only \$3 million of total budget
4. Proposed vegetable garden should be well clear of copper beach tree
5. Steve Pinkerton from Housing Board will come talk to COA Board after Town Meeting
6. The Selectman representative should come meet the COA board

Treasurer's Report There is \$60 left in the COA Board treasury

Staff Appreciation Lunch will be Friday March 13 at noon. Board members will bring the food

Minutes February 3, 2020 Board meeting were accepted as corrected

Director's Report - see attached report. Additional updates included a report from Nava Niv-Vogel that the meeting with the Warrant Sub committee was very positive. Nava and Dana met with the person who prints the monthly newsletter who complimented our Center's letter as the best one they have done. It is full of interesting programs and also having the corona virus mentioned in the newsletter. A more complete flyer about the corona virus will be put together to go out with the tax bill and be posted on the Town web site.

Uber/Lift money – Other COAs are getting money from this fund to help with transportation expenses. Will contact other COAs to see if Belmont can also take advantage of this.

Assistant Director Report - February very successful events including an a cappella group, speed dating, cupcake decorating, elder abuse program, historical talk and Iceland travelogue. March will include Why They Marched: Untold Stories of the Women who Fought for the Right to Vote, Turning Food Waste into Satisfying Meals, lecture on Boston Molasses Flood, CSI mini series with Belmont PD, 2nd round Shingles vaccine along with pneumonia and flu if needed, and Amelia Earhart program.

LGBTQ update – hosting another LGBTQ karaoke night with Arlington March 24.

Future Programs: partnering with Mt. Auburn and Merrimack Valley for another chronic pain class, the New England Conservatory of Music is returning, lecture on ALZ and dementia, 60's music program, HIP program. The Tufts series is resuming, a garden program with the friends of Skybar in Sudbury. April 29 a program on cancer prevention. There is even more not mentioned.

Surveys are out in the newsletter asking about publicity to make available in Russian, Chinese and online.

Fashion Show will be May 7 with Coldwater Creek for women and Eastern store for men.

Volunteer Driver Program - 70 rides were offered this month.

Age Friendly Belmont Action Plan - Nava reported that there have been 2 meetings. It is funded by a Tufts Foundation grant which is due April 1. They will move forward with 4 of the 8 domains: information and communication, open spaces, transportation and housing.

Status Belmont Housing Trust Plan for McLean Property - Tomi Olson reported that the Housing Trust is working with developer. Town meeting would need to pass an overlay. Work on this still needs to be done.

Community Report marking 10 yr anniversary - need to continue working on.

Response to Corona Virus - There was a discussion as to how the COA and Center is and should respond to the Corona Virus.

Chinese seniors hope to resume activities at the Center in a couple of weeks. Make signs encouraging hand washing.

A Motion was made and passed to contact Patrice and Board of Health to get a specific advisory on how to deal with facility.

The next COA Board meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2020. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ethel Hamann