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TOWN OF BELMONT
COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 2, 2018 - MINUTES

Attendee: Maryann Scali (Chair), C. Bunyon, E. Hamann, P. Solomon, T. Dukas, J. Singler, M. Cahalane, T. Olson, J. Staton and N. Niv-Vogel, J. Semuels, CQ Lai

No Absentee.

The meeting was called to order at: 7:00 pm.

1. Senior citizen concern: Joel asked if the camera at the center will be turned off on the Election Day, April 3, 2018. The camera is always disabled on the Election Day. Maryann reminded that the senior Prom party will be held at the center on April 27, 5:30 to 8:00 pm, Friday, \$10 per ticket. Request for helping seniors with protection and use of cell phone is still in the process.
 2. Review of Past Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the March 5, 2018 meeting were mended and approved with one minor grammatical correction. Correction: Jim Staton attended the March 5 meeting.
 3. The Direction update:
 - (1) Annual count occurred on the second to the last day of March. Someone sit at the door counting everyone coming through the door and then compared with the tally counts by who wiped in and the counts by instructors for all classes. We had 1500 for that week with the Thursday being a snowing day. That is 300 per day on average. But based on signed in from the database, that is 1150. This indicates that our swiping-in system captured 70% of people entering the door. The center needs to report to the Town committee how many seniors use annually in the center.
 - (2) Town committee can also use the center for meeting. Town committee had used the center for meeting. But the town has no procedure in place when the town committee wants to use the buildings where there is no staff working (after working hours). Nava had put forward to request to Town Administrator - Patricia for procedure when town committee meeting take place at the center. For example, can policeman be requested to check up the building when a committee is in a meeting at the center?
- C. Bunyon asked and suggested if seniors can be offered a welcome kit to join the Friends of COA at the door when they register to use the center. The board agrees and supports the suggestion.
- (3) We have not got response from Superintendent Phelan for our letter about repairing the stairs of the high school pool so that senior can use the swimming pool in the

summer yet. Tomi Olson offered to serve as the liaison between COA and the Belmont Public School Committee.

- (4) All the afterschool programs are over prescribed. The center is not in the position to accommodate the afterschool program.
- (5) Selectmen Adam Dash brought up that some people asked for more evening program. We piloted some programs before, but we had low attendance. Transportation is another issue. We should run a pilot to assess the situation in the summer. Nava pointed out that the center is open until 7:00 pm, but often a few people use the transportation after 4:00 pm. So it may indicate that a very few seniors are interested in the evening program. The third of the operation budget of the center is for transportation, which is mainly paid for the drivers' salary. That is similar situation for other town senior centers. Nava summed up that "transportation service is expensive and it is indispensable."
- (6) Nava found a cab company that provides handicap accessible (equipped with wheelchair accessible) ride, the company is interested, but not sure if the company will call back yet.
- (7) Per Joel's question, Nava indicated that age-friendly initiative study is not going roll out in the Town meeting yet. But Nava will give five minutes summary about the process of producing the report at the town meeting. Mike Widmer said the report will be distributed to all TM members, and then we will have community-wide hearing on June 5, 3:00 pm.

4. Joel reported on the Friends of COA:

The Friends will have a Spring Fashion Show with Lord and Taylor on May 9, 2-4 pm, \$15/ ticket. The advertisement was printed and is displayed at the center. Each board member (the Friends of COA) is responsible for sale of 10 tickets. There are 50 tickets available for sale to the public at the center. Friends of COA will have another organization meeting for the event on April 11. Coldwell Banker at Belmont is the sponsor for the publicity of the event. The board of Friends of COA is working on Senior Newsletter and it will come out in the early May. David Chin is the head of the organizing committee of the senior Prom. Next (Friends of COA) meeting is on June 14, 7:00pm. Rosemary D. is on the board replacing Karla O'Brien.

5. Old Business:

- (1) Nava reviewed the budget, which was covered in the director report.
- (2) We request an increase for seniors to earn from \$1000 per year to \$1500 per year toward tax reduction, and the income eligibility was increased from \$57,000 to \$72,000 per year. But Patricia indicated that will be voted by the board selectman. Maryann will check and see if the voting can be moved to the June meeting.

6. New Business:

- (1) Process for bring special programs to the center:

Nava answered the question Maryann raised in previous meeting: how new programs can come to center. New programs can come to the center in several ways:

- a. People in the community want and propose to do a program.
 - b. The center is interested in a particular topic and we seek out for instructor for such course/class.
 - c. We just come up a good idea in term of recreation activity.
 - d. We have a proposal form available to instructors or others in the community, who is interested in offering a program or series. In such case, applicants need to submit the proposal, his/her CV, references, and their credentials for such programs. The proposed program will be subject to query. And then applicants complete instructor agreement.
 - e. Funding of the programs
For on-going class, it is usually be paid by the attendee. The price structure depends on how many join the program.
For one-time program, it is usually sponsored by the business communities or by Friends of COA.
 - f. Who decide to bring in new programs: Nava and Lillian
- (2) Nava mentioned that MCOA with theme being "reframing aging" the Second week of Oct (October 24-26) will be held at Sea Crest Resort, Falmouth, MA
- (3) Joel asked if training about tax bill and values of properties will be provided for seniors. Tomi mentioned that Jim Williams may come to our board meeting to talk about tax information. The board agrees to invite Jim to talk about tax information in next board meeting.

Next meeting is May 8, Tuesday.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chao-Qiang Lai