

Minutes of the Belmont Council on Aging Board meeting March 4, 2019

2019 JUL 16 AM 9:58

Present: Chao Qiang-Lai, Chair; Maryann Scali; Ethel Hamann; Joel Semuels; Phyl Solomon; Ted Dukas; Michael Cahalane, Terese Hammerle; Nava Niv-Vogel, ex officio; Dana Leavitt, ex officio
Absent: Judy Singler; Ellen Sullivan; Tomi Olson;

1. Call to order- 7:05 PM
2. Senior citizen's concerns- Maryanne suggested that at town meeting one of the members who are on the COA board commit to speaking on items affecting seniors. That person should talk to the moderator first. Motion: a motion was made to have the COA review warrant articles pertaining to seniors and vote on them so the moderator can call on the town meeting member who is a COA board member so they can report the vote of the COA to the town meeting. This was passed unanimously.
We discussed briefly the new parking meter system at Belmont. Members felt that any change to that system would be quite expensive.

There was a Valentine's Day party. People on a waiting list went there and people who didn't sign up to go got to go in. Beech Street staff did in fact call people on the list. It was stated that seniors in Belmont should be given priority in programs. For well attended programs like certain trips we should say "Belmont residents only". Once he reported that we don't charge enough for events like the Valentine's Day party. Dana caused vendors in Belmont to maximize sponsorship. People do donate. Dana will leave the donation box in the multipurpose room.

3. Treasurer's report- We have \$155. Everyone paid the \$10 assigned. We are going to get a plaque for the Intergenerational Programming Award for the Chenery School. (This award is an incentive for people and programs to partner with us).
4. Past meeting minutes-accepted as amended – in section 6, item E, the word "unanimously and" will be deleted.

The Belmont newspaper states that there will be 19, not nine, affordable units. The housing board is to meet next week. A variance will be needed by the developers after it goes through town meeting to change the zoning. Ethel says that the traffic needs to be studied. We need more places for seniors to downsize and stay in Belmont. The League of Women Voters hearing for the warrant is on April 17.

5. Updates and Correspondence-
 - a. Directors Report-the Age Friendly celebration is March 14 at 2 PM. This will be at the Selectmen's office. Mike Festa state director of AARP in Massachusetts, will present the certificate to Adam Dash, the Chair of the Board of Selectmen.
 - b. On 28 February, there was a meeting on express lane eligibility. This is referring to transferring information from the Light Department when a person is eligible for a discount to another department like the Assessor's office and *vice versa*.
 - c. Ellen investigated the volunteer transportation program, and Nava reported on it. Nava and Ellen will meet next Friday to discuss the research. Nava attended a meeting at Springwell to showcase "Go-Go Grandparents". This company eliminates the dispatch component. It is a very small company. This is the only company that does it. All the COA directors in Springwell area have met many

times and are meeting again this Tuesday. Springwell will not do more transportation. This is a serious problem. Wellesley has a robust volunteer program. Springwell will have a new director this summer. We will try to engage Springwell and coming back to the transportation issue. We had to cancel the Selectmen Candidate Forum. The new date and time for this is March 11 at 2:45 PM.

- d. Assistant Director report-Dana reported that the Valentine day party, 50 people showed up. At the lunar new year party 100 people celebrated. Supper clubs were well attended. Dana is to meet with the Belmont human rights commission for LGBTQ issues. He is doing a nutrition innovation program, a lecture series on nutrition. In March there will be a "Beech Party". There will be arts and crafts events and helping to decorate high school for the all-night party. There is an interactive drumming program and a Kentucky Derby party on May 3, other events include the singing trooper and Mother's Day Tea.

- 6. Friend's - The next meeting for the Friend's is June 13 at 7 PM. Al Natale has retired. Jim Bramante may substitute for September 12 fundraiser. Joel will have an article in the newsletter on Age Friendly Belmont.

- 7. Springwell- Judy Singler was not here.

policy regarding program space: Groups must register as a program. The time given to groups must be honored. There has to be a liaison in the group. We reserve the right to grant or deny space. We discussed this previously and deferred vote on it till tonight. The motion to accept the policy regarding program space passed unanimously. This is the policy:

Policy for Program and Space Usage at the Beech Street Center

Principle of the policy

The Beech Street Center is committed to encouraging all older adults in the community to make use of the facility. The COA that runs the BSC believes that such utilization is key to maintaining the health and well-being of older adults. As the center's popularity grows and participation increases there are times when the demand for program space necessitates evaluations of how to make sharing of the space as equitable as possible to all interested users of the building. The following points of policy are designed to achieve that equitable balance as well as to streamline and standardize practices involving program space.

- 1. The COA reserves the right, in consultation with all affected parties, to change any room where a program is booked, for other center needs
- 2. Program participants are entitled to use of a room only during the time period, as publicized by COA staff only. That means that participants cannot demand to be let in early or linger at the end beyond the allotted program time.

3. If a program/group is asked to leave a particular room the group cannot decide which room to use as a reassignment. All assignments and reassignments come from the COA management staff.
4. Groups/programs that do not have an end date as not assumed to be able to use the current space indefinitely.
5. If a formed group has a celebration or other change in program that involves expanded use of a space on a given day must notify staff at least 2 weeks in advance of that special celebration or expanded use.
6. A group requesting the use of dedicated space must register with COA management for authorization to use the space. No group can just use a room without authorized permission. This includes all rooms except for the library, café and ping pong/pool room.
7. A group requesting space must appoint a point person from the group who takes responsibility for communicating with staff and who staff can turn to to communicate with the group. That person should be prepared to make him or herself available while in or out of the center. That person should be able to communicate in English.
8. Any group wishing to expand to other rooms or to expand the program on a different day must make that request to staff and must not assume that this request will automatically be granted. All requests for expansion will be evaluated on a case by case basis and in consideration of all users or potential users of the center.
(end of policy)
8. Planning ceremony for excellence in intergenerational programming: we discussed the award at the end of March for the director and teacher for the afterschool program. This will be March 29 at 2:30 PM at the Beech Street Center.
9. The next meeting of the Council will be April 1.
10. Volunteer luncheon was a success. There were greater than 20 people present.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Cahalane