

DATE: June 7, 2023
TIME: 10:28 AM

**Belmont Council on Aging
Board Meeting Minutes, April 3, 2023**

Meeting Called to order at 7:02 PM

Present: Jane Shapiro, Chao Qiang Lai, Dana Bickelman (Director ex-officio), Margie Wayne, Judy Morrison, Pierce Ellinwood (Assistant Director ex officio), Ellen Sullivan, Vice Chair, Ted Dukas, Karen Donelan, Maryann Scali, Tomi Olson, Chair, & Joel Semuels

Not Present: Andrea Paschal & Mark Paolillo (Select Board liaison)

1. Senior Citizen Concerns – MaryAnn

Pickleball court in multi-purpose room not accurate
No FT custodian yet

2. The March 6, 2023, meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no change.

3. Updates and Correspondence:

a. Director D. Bickelman

Dana reviewed her director's report and highlighted that the new treadmills arrived, and they are a little different. Susan Barbato is offering to do training on the new treadmills.

Positive feedback from seniors continue to come in about the CoA staff and the seniors are asked to call the Town Administrator's Office so they are informed. An idea was proposed by Margie to request the Town Administrator to profile a CoA employee in her Employee Spotlight section of her Bulletin.

A discussion was held by the board members on the incident during a "hot topics" group meeting. Dana will follow-up on this issue with applicable parties. The CoA has a Diversity statement that should be posted in various places at the Beech Street Center.

Ellen asked if the center received \$4000 (Uber/Lyft) promised by the town. Dana will follow up by a phone call to Jennifer Hewitt, Finance Director.

b. Assistant Director- Pierce Ellinwood

March had many exciting events and the notable return of Tuesday evening hours, which we're working to fill with programming.

April activities kick off on Friday April 7th with the AARP-sponsored and the Belmont version of the "Home Fit" guide. The event will include speakers from AARP, the AFAC Housing subcommittee, and a panel of various experts. Ellen Sullivan will be presenting a program on how to downsize to a smaller house or senior community and Steve Rosales will present on navigating the estate tax.

Other April activities include a presentation on the Wright Brothers, a Frank Sinatra tribute singer, and a talk centering on game theory in WWII. We will also have our first weekend trip on Saturday April 29th, as a group will head to the Boston Common to view "The Embrace" and go to lunch.

May will be packed with lots of entertainment and educational programs.

The Lifelong Learning program in the fall is in the works. There are a few people that are interested in offering their knowledge in various areas.

Pierce discussed sponsorship opportunities for our newsletter from local cannabis dispensaries who would like to run advertisements. The Board was asked to consider; how do we feel about cannabis vs. CBD? Yes to both, one, neither? And how do we feel about advertising delivery services (which are town dependent)? Questions were asked and Pierce will do some more research on the topic.

c. Friends of the Belmont C.O.A. - Joel Semuels

The Friends of COA's Newsletter will be going out soon- thanks to everyone who wrote an article.

The Friends are still looking for new young Board members to join.

The fundraising concert will be on Sept 28, 2023. The Crafts Fair will be held on Nov 18th from 9am- 3pm.

d. Springwell- J. Shapiro

Jane gave an update on Springwell activities.

e. Transportation Working Group E. Sullivan

Funds are being used from the Mass Development Grant for the medical taxi ride program. No additional news to report.

f. Age Friendly Action Committee (AFAC) - J. Morrison

Judy reviewed the status of the subcommittees working on the Age-Friendly Action Plan. She invited everyone to attend the April 7th- How to Modify Your Home to Age in Place program.

4. Old Business

A. Tomi is working on getting a seamstress to come to the Beech Street Center.

5. New Business

A. Town Day (May. 20th)- Dana will send out an email for CoA Board and Friend's Board members to sign up to set up and man the table for this event. Dana will check for the tent.

B. Nominating committee for Chair & Vice Chair of CoA Board

A discussion was held on how to proceed with nominations because December is the normal time to elect a new Chair & Vice Chair. Since Tomi took over as chair from Mark P Paolillo in July 2021, it was decided that she would continue as chair until December 2023 when new nominations would be discussed. Joel, Jane and Maryann volunteered to be on the nominating committee at that time.

Agenda items for next meeting:

Remote vs In-person future meetings

Note takers for July 2023- June 2024

Should we have a meeting in August 2023

6. Next meeting date: May 2, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Meeting minutes submitted by Margie Wayne