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COUNCIL ON AGING

Board Minutes Monday, March 2, 2015

Present: M. Cahalane – chair, J. Singler, Penny Schafer, Jim Staton, M. Scali, E. Hamann and Nava Niv-Vogel, director

Absent: C. Bunyon, T. Olson, C. Qiang-Li, J. Semuels, T. Dukas

The meeting was called to order 7:35 pm

Senior Citizens' Concerns:

- A. Thanks were given for use of the Belder bus shuttling people from All Saints Church parking lot to the First Church UU for the memorial service for Ann Allen. Over 300 people attended the service and with parking space limited due to snow piles extra parking was offered at St Joseph's and All Saints churches lots.
- B. Maryanne Scali read a letter from a senior requesting that more programs be offered at the center on topics including health and medical issues, "staying put and aging in place," assisted living, fraud and identity theft, living alone, and the availability of a nurse or qualified volunteer that could answer health questions. Many of these topics are covered yearly or every other year. She also wanted more opportunities to play games i.e. cribbage etc. Space is a problem, but with sufficient interest a room will be found.
- C. young people and seniors doing activities together.
- D. Seniors are invited to a rehearsal at the high school on Wednesday, March 25 of *Anything Goes*.

SPRINGWELL PROGRAMS FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING: Judy Singler and Nava met last Friday, Feb 27 with the Director of the Belmont Housing Authority to discuss ways that the COA could be helpful to residents in senior housing. The initial reaction from the senior housing was that there was no need for a program. The residents are independent and can get themselves to program and events. This is not assisted care living.

There is a difference in atmosphere between Sherman Gardens and Waverly Oaks. Sherman Gardens' residents are more of a community and do activities together. Waverly Oaks is more isolated and doesn't inter mix as much. The design of the housing is not as welcoming. Next fall Nava will try and bring a social worker intern over to give a sense of outreach and offer services to the residents

The minutes of the February 4, 2015 COA Board meeting were approved with a few minor corrections.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Nava added to her report that she needs to complete the report for the Town Annual Report. She went to her first meeting at Springwell with their new director. Springwell does not know yet the governor's priorities for balancing the budget, but will let Nava know as soon as they hear.

There is a rumor that Ann Hartwell's position as Director of Elder Affairs may not be filled. It was agreed that Michael Callahane would write a letter from the COA urging the governor to fill that position quickly.

Kevin Looney is retiring the end of the month.

The Center will be able to start programming the opening of their front door rather than relying on Town Hall.

SPRINGWELL: There are concerns about what will happen to the budget under the Baker regime. Things are all set for now, it is next year the impact will be felt of any cuts. A new website will be up and running in the next couple of months.

BUDGET: Available COA board members will meet with the Warrant subcommittee this Thursday, March 5. Nava wants to show how many riders the Center transportation gives that need to have extra assistance. She has the number, but it is not in the report at this point. Graphs will be available as a supplemental request.

NEW BUSINESS: There was a brief discussion of winter weather issues.

The next COA meeting is April 6, 2015 at 7:30 pm at the Center.

Adjournment 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ethel Hamann