

**BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 8, 2003**

PRESENT: M.L. AHEARN, J. BRUSCH, E. HAMANN, J. HORNER, J. KANTOR, H. KAZARIAN,
T. MORIBITO, N. NIV-VOGEL, P. SOLOMON
ABSENT: V. FALVEY, E. FINNEGAN

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Barbara Miranda, Chair. The minutes of the March meeting were accepted as submitted.

Senior Concerns: Barbara Brown requested information on how seniors can enlist the help of the COA when they are faced with specific issues, such as housing. Barbara Miranda suggested talking to Nava first and then she would refer the senior to the appropriate person. If that did not prove successful then the issue would be brought before the COA board. Barbara will also mail a copy of the COA mission and new bylaws to Barbara Brown to further clarify the issue. The suggestion was made that it might be helpful to have an "Issues Program" for seniors that would include representatives from the Board of Health, Housing Authority, and COA etc. Barbara Miranda will look into this.

Director's Report: Attached. For web-site viewers, refer to link entitled "March Director's Report." In addition Nava reported that she had been invited by the Arlington COA director to attend a breakfast on 4/14/03 with the Governor and Lt. Governor to discuss current budget issues that would affect seniors. (e.g. reduced formula grants)

Springwell Report:

AAA: Kathy Simpson is continuing to monitor the 22 agencies that grants were awarded to. Each one needs to be visited at least once a year. All employees of the agencies are required to have a Corey check (a check to see if the person has a criminal record). BC legal services is refusing to do this saying it is infringing on their rights and are seeking an outside legal opinion. If they refuse to have the CORI check, then Springwell will have to look to another group for legal aid.

Regional Transportation: Brookline will probably be able to come up with money for their transportation next year and not be requesting the \$17,000 they usually receive. Busy Bee and SCM have had very heavy volume this winter. Hopefully, there are only a handful of rides a month that they are unable to do. Springwell urged that they be called early if there is a need so they can get their volunteers to do the rides.

The Deaf Center meal site, which was open Wednesdays only, in Brookline, has been closed due to lack of participation.

March was National Nutrition Month. This year the dietitian has gone out to the various meal sites to do education on using whole grains.

The Direct Mail campaign will be starting soon.

Budget: A discussion about the budget focussed on the impact of the increase in rent for the Our Lady of Mercy Parish House/Senior Center, on programs and staffing at the COA. However, in view of the fact that the Warrant Committee has already made a decision on our budget, no changes were able to be made.

Old Business: Barbara Miranda reported that the Board of Selectmen voted to place the design Funds on the warrant for the upcoming Town Meeting. The second part of the Town Meeting has been postponed until June 16, 17, and 18. This article will be discussed at that time.

The Friends of the COA met prior to the COA board meeting and will begin a fund raising campaign. The goal is to go to Town Meeting with pledges of financial support for the new senior center. Barbara will also meet with the Permanent Building Committee and the Capital Budget Committee to encourage them to work with us on this issue. Barbara stressed the importance of taking a positive stand and keeping focussed on the future as the new senior center will be an asset for the whole town.

New Business: It was announced that Libby Finnegan has decided not to continue on the COA Board for another term, leaving an opening to be filled.

Nava noted that the Tax Incentive Program in 2003 had more requests than there was money available. A reevaluation of the policy for choosing applicants may be necessary. It was decided to wait until the state budget is completed to discuss further.....probably at the June board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Phyl Solomon