

## **MINUTES OF THE BELMONT C.O.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING July 8, 2013**

Present: P. Schafer, Chair, E. Hamann, T. Olson, C. Qiang-Lai, T. Dukas, J. Semuels, M. Cahalane, Nava Niv-Vogel, Executive Director.

Absent: M. Scali, S. Hammerlind

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.
2. The previous meetings minutes were approved unanimously without change.
3. Some changes of the Executive Director's evaluation were proposed by the chair. The board debated and changed one section of this evaluation. Tomi Olson moved to accept the changes to the Executive Director's evaluation. Joel Semuels seconded it. It was unanimously passed.
4. Senior citizens concerns-there was a complaint against the Director, the Police Department and the Advocates. There was a plan to sue in small claims court. There were two episodes less than one week apart. The person moved out of town and the insurance company moved to dismiss the case. This was done for the Director and the police but not for the Advocates.
5. Directors Report: The town disabilities commission needs members. It is down to one person. Tomi Olson suggested Nina Livingstone. She will be advised to fill out the volunteer access form.

A grant that was prepared was not accepted. Nava rewrote it as a title 3 grant and reapplied. The roof of the Beech Street center is complete. There is condensation in the closet of the arts room on the first floor. Southern Air (an HVAC firm) was called and this should be resolved in the near future.

Parking: David Kale wanted the approach of putting letters on cars explain the situation. The letter is from Nava. It began last Friday. If the parking problem persists it will be brought back to David Kale.

Nava visited Holyoke. They have a monitor with a larger screen that makes it more enticing to scan in. It costs about \$1600, however. We may need a new monitor this fiscal year. The Friends may be a good organization to ask for help. It may be the only device that will be available when it is needed. It is comforting to know that the gap between those who signed in by the device and the manual count is closer than it has been in the past.

The Fernald school swimming program is not counted. We refer people there. It is not a COA program as such. It was suggested to put the poster asking people to sign up at the entrance to the Beech Street center back in position.

Transportation update: There has been an increase the couple of months ago. Rides are more robust.

Friends-the website issue is resolved and is running. The Al Natale concert will be September 19 and will be here at the Beech Street center.

Springwell: The meals program has no problems. There is a better caterer. Fresh fruit is offered. There is a farmer's market program this summer. The meals program is all low-sodium.

6. An issue that came up before the Town Meeting was revolving funds. Nava met with the accounting staff and with David Kale before the fiscal year began. He wants to revamp the account into five subaccounts. They are trips, classes, other (including program supplies), donations and fitness room. We also have a gift account. Fitness money should be in the fitness account. Penny Schafer, the chair, believes that this is a transition period. The subaccounts will likely ultimately make tracking funds easier.

Some of the board will be happy to meet with accountants. Nava will include in her director's reports in the fall how the revolving fund is working out. Getting staff to understand the change will require one to two months.

Meet Belmont night will be August 27 at the Chenery Middle School.

Status of appointments-Penny Schafer spoke to Bobby Reardan. All three people who are up for reappointment have asked to be reappointed. Allen and Angela have moved. These positions, too, need to be filled. The Selectmen likely will deal with appointments on July 29.

CPA (community preservation act) committee-last year the committee wanted to have money spent on concrete things. These included historic preservation, Recreation open space, affordable housing, and access to physical disabilities. Elevators in elderly housing has been an issue championed by Nava in the past. Waverley Oaks is the apartment complex in question. There are two levels and the basement level. How strongly does the board feel the need for elevators and Waverley Oaks? Should we approach the housing authority? On September 6, preliminary applications are due. The board recommends elevators. Maybe we will be ready for next year. It seems too late to try for this year. A working group will be set up in the fall to work on this for next year.

Other business-Joel Semuels reminds the board that in the fall Nava Niv-Vogel will bring her goals to our meeting. The next meeting will be September 9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Cahalane