

BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 13, 2004

Present J. Brusch, E. Hamann, N. Hegarty, J. Horner, J. Kantor, H. Kazarian, A. Lougee,
B. Miranda, N. Niv-Vogel, J. Semuels
Absent T. Morabito, P. Solomon

Barbara Miranda (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes – The minutes from the July meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Springwell Report – There was no report as Springwell did not meet in August.

Director's Report (see attached)

Additions to the Director's report: The MCOA line item was increased 10%. However, EOE is currently holding onto those funds and it is unclear whether the money will eventually filter down to the programs. These formula grant funds can be used for certain approved salaries and activities (the Volunteer Coordinator, the Meal Site Host, a portion of the Program Secretary, and \$1,000 for the volunteer luncheon).

Nava reported that the program's Title 3 grants were funded -- \$5,000 for the Transportation Grant (which will end 9/05); \$6,000+ for the Teen Respite program and \$1,000+ for the Health Education series.

Nava reported that there have been problems with the program's data base software, which is used for tracking service and program statistics. The aging software can't manipulate and modify data to meet the program's needs unless a lower version of the operating system is installed. Due to its incompatibility with other software programs on the town-wide system, the town has denied the COA's request to install Windows 97. How this issue will be resolved is unclear at this time.

Our Lady of Mercy, scheduled to close later this year, has engaged real estate appraisers to value the church properties. Nava noted prospective problems for the Senior Center should the parking lot be developed prior to the expiration of our lease. With a gap between the end of the current lease period and the construction of the new Senior Center, Nava raised the question of how realistic a lease extension might be if other development begins before that time.

Old Business

Senior Center Building Committee report: Neil Hegarty reported that the committee did not meet in August.

Update on Shaw's discount for seniors: Barbara Miranda spoke to the Manager of the Belmont Shaw's who explained that upon presenting our request for a senior discount program at a regional meeting, he was told that it could not be done unless it is implemented on a corporate-wide basis. After hearing counter arguments from Barbara, he said that he will reintroduce it at their next monthly meeting. In the meantime, if someone wants to take on this project they should bring new ideas to the October COA meeting.

Friends fundraising activities: Barbara Miranda reported that the fundraising materials are complete and the committee continues to advance its efforts to raise funds for the new center.

New Business

Presentation of Slate of Officer Nominees: The nominating committee presented the following slate of officer nominees: COA Chair – Neil Hegarty; Vice Chair – Barbara Miranda; Treasurer – Joe Horner, and Secretary (on a rotating basis) – John Bruschi, Anne Lougee, Tom Morabito, Joel Semuels and Phyl Solomon. Voting of officers will take place at the October meeting.

Discussion of Budget Needs for FY '06: As noted in the July Director's Report, the Board of Selectman have asked Department Heads to submit a budget that reflects a full assessment of their program needs, rather than presenting a level-funded budget. The Director's summary of budget needs were reviewed and discussed at this meeting. Neil Hegarty noted that many of the needs reflect the reinstatement of previously cut expenses.

The FY '05 COA Board Meeting schedule was approved, as follows:

Tuesday	July 6	Monday	February 2
Monday	September 13	Monday	March 1
Monday	October 4	Monday	April 12
Monday	November 1	Monday	May 10
Monday	December 6	Monday	June 7
Tuesday	January 4		

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Lougee