

Belmont Council on Aging

Board Meeting

January 3, 2011

Present: E. Hamann, N.Hegarty, M. Calahane, T. Olson, D. LeClerc, A. Lougee, P.Schafer, M.Scali and J.Samuels

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by Chr. J. Samuels

The Chair thanked E. Hamann for her 2 plus years of service as chairperson.

Senior Citizen Concerns

Nava reported that a senior had called asking the COA to provide a ride for her husband who needed to go to dialysis at 5am in the morning. Nava explained that the service is not available at that time of day. She suggested alternative methods of transportation.

Review of minutes

They were accepted

General Announcements

The Holiday Party for the staff will be held on Friday, January 28th at Noon. About 20 people will be attending. The committee volunteered to supply the food and drinks.

Updates:

- **Springwell-**

“Program Solutions in Care” This is a new program for the consumer whose income is above other program low income eligibility levels. This is designed to make information available to clients at \$60 per hour. There are no minimum hours or maximum hours needed to apply for assistance. This will help people to pull all services together. Long-term care could be covered by insurance. The program will start in late winter or early summer. N. Hegarty will keep us posted.

B. Director's Report:

Heat problem was resolved.

Town Counsel is fine with AARP interpretation of the statute governing the issue of identifying information leaving the center.

Staffing-Pat Driscoll doing well in hospice

Belmont Housing-There was a complaint that we are not acting on complaints about the selection process for housing placement at The Belmont Housing Authority. We need to invite Ann Verrilli, liason from the Belmont Housing Authority, to come and speak to us.Nava reviewed the history of our involvement with problems at senior housing and our current involvement with the BHA. Nava will invite A. Verrilli to come and speak at next Board meeting.

Concert-The Friday concert was a success.

Two problems have been identified as very prevalent recently. One of these problems is that people have been hoarding in their dwellings and the other is an increase in reports of seniors with debilitating psychotic disorders.

We are initiating training with other COAs, social workers, police and fire to assist workers with these types of concerns. McLean Geriatric Program has stated a willingness to provide this training. There is also "Hebrew Senior Life" who can be available.

The Board expresses support for Nava to ask McLean Hospital, a nearby institution, to provide training for staff and those people who are the first responders.

January 13th there will be a meeting on transportation with COAs and Town Administrators from surrounding communities on possible regionalization of this service.

Rentals- There have been several bookings since the COA took over rentals in December. There is no news. There is a committee working on the new form for the center rentals. (Anne Lougee, Angela Mullin and Maryann Scali).

Senior Center Building Committee-Penny Schafer

The generator has been picked up.

Heating- geothermal maintenance –a committee will meet to set up contact.

Belmont Elder Citizens, Inc. has offered to purchase outdoor furniture, tables and chairs on the patio as well as a large bench at the entrance.

Friends of COA-Anne Lougee

The four outstanding pledges from the Capital Campaign are now being paid and honored. Their next meeting is January 13th.

Fitness Room Working Group- Nava

Anthony from the YMCA is the liaison. There are some changes to the MOU which the YMCA has reported but have not sent back yet for revisions.

T.Younger may have to look at the MOU again before it is signed by all the parties. It was suggested that Joel send a letter to the Director of the Y and cc: to Anthony asking for a progress report.

Rentals/Events Team-E.Hamann

There may need to be another Open House to educate people on the rental availability and details.. It was suggested that testimonials from people who attended and enjoyed the experience be publicized in the paper.

A new application form is being prepared to make it easier for the renters.

Old Business:-J. Semuels

Board strategy for FY '12 Budget was discussed.

Board members who will attending the Warrant Committee meetings are:

Jan. 5- E. Hamann, Jan. 12- Penny Schafer, Jan. 19-Dan LeClerc, Jan. 25- Neal Hegarty, Feb. 2- Anne Lougee, Feb. 9- Tomi Olson, Feb. 16th-**M. Scali**

A Sub-committee of the Warrant Committee-- *Human Services:* Library, COA, Health Department and Recreation Department.

A draft-Budget meeting- was submitted to:

Tom Younger, TA and Barbara Haag, Town Accountant and -.N. Niv-Vogel (Director) was held on December 16th.

A level funded budget- more funds are requested for increased repairs to the Belderbus, office supplies and interstate travel/ training.

P. Schafer, J. Semuels and N. Niv-Vogel will meet to revise the budget narrative to clarify it and make it more accurate. A draft will be finalized and sent around to the Committee before the next meeting.

We are waiting for the Warrant Committee to contact us.

Policy Regarding Security Camera at Center-

Question? Who is looking at the tapes, what do they do with them etc?

The Chair will send a letter asking about the status of the tapes and when are they reviewed? The letter will be sent to the Board of Selectmen and cc: to the Town Administrator. (At the October 4th meeting a resolution was passed about the status of the cameras.)

New Business:

Discussion of the evaluation of the Director. The Board would like to have input on record.

Motion-“The COA Board of Directors willingly accepts the responsibility to conduct a performance evaluation of the COA Director, if requested by the Board of Selectmen”. The motion was unanimously adopted. J.Semuels, Chair, will send a letter to the Board of Selectmen and cc: to T. Younger, TA stating the board position.

Jim Staton has a copy of the *Memorandum of Understanding*, which was signed on use of the Senior Center. All minutes and attendance sheets are kept by the Director at the Center. A. Lougee and J.Semuels need a copy of the actual signed MOU.

Executive Session minutes will be reviewed at the Feb. 7th meeting from the previous meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Scali, Pro-tem

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