

Belmont Council on Aging
Minutes
October 1,2007

Present: J. Semuels , J. Brusch H. Dvorak, E.Hamann,N. Hegarty, J. Kantor, H. Kazarian, B. Miranda,A. Verrilli, N. Niv-Vogel

Absent: J. Horner, A.Lougee, P.Solomon

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by J. Semuels, Chair

Minutes: The minutes of September 10, 2007 meeting were accepted with the correction that the nominating committee consisted of H. Dvorak,J. Kantor and H. Kazarian

There were no senior citizens concerns brought forth

Announcements: B. Miranda announced that there would be a new Secretary of Elder Affairs.

Barbara Miranda announced that there was a meeting of B. Miranda and A. Verrilli, Representative Brownsberger, DHCD representatives and the Belmont Housing Authority to discuss improving accessibility at the Waverly Oaks Apartments . The outcome of this meeting was to access Emergency Accessibility Funds that would provide a grant for upgrading the accessibility of each handicapped resident's apartment and the buildings themselves. The initial step in this process is for the Belmont Housing Authority to formally apply for these emergency funds.

Springwell.: An opening exists for Director of the Nutrition Program.

The agency's financial status is solid.

The agency completes routine client surveys to improve the provided services such as the nutrition program.

A presentation was given on the agency's involvement in working for victims of elder abuse. This is a growing problem. The agency is averaging 64 such cases per month. A 24/7 hot line is available for anonymous reports.

Springwell is piloting a "Caregiver's Notebook" that will assemble all the social workers' case notes, interventions and other critical information that aids the staff in dealing efficiently with clients. It will eventually be accessible by family members on a secure website.

Directors Report:

Presented by N. Niv-Vogel

All COA programs were reviewed with the perspective of 0 based budgeting. As usual, the transportation programs constituted the largest part of the budget. The COA strongly advised the Director to document the high rate of physical disabilities of those who utilize these transportation services. The COA transportation services frequently are the only option to allow these people to reach their doctor, hospital or grocery store.

The Director is working on obtaining a trainer for the spring session of Chronic Disease Self-management course.

There will be an Open House at the Senior Center, October 12.

Use of the revolving account to fund certain programs has been clarified.

The social service intern and Shine volunteer have started working at the center.

A Health Fair will be conducted at the end of October.

On October 26, the Patriotic Quilt will be installed in Town Hall.

The Friends annual meeting will occur on October 17.

A craft fair and meat raffle sponsored by the Friends will be held in November.

Building Committee Report:

Presented by N. Hegarty

Planning Board: requires that four more trees are to be added to the original 8 trees at the back of the building; further information is needed on the photometrics for the outside lighting plan and the land survey is completed with documents filed with the Registry of Deeds and with notification of the filing returned to the Town.

Fire Chief's comments: the meeting was held on 9/26/07 to review the Chief's 76 point commentary and other Points to Ponder. Consensus was arrived at on the items to include in changes to the drawings.

Next meeting of the Building Committee: Wednesday, October 3, 2007 at the Senior Center

Nomination and Election: the Nominating Committee (H. Dvorak ,H. Kazarian and J Kantor) proposed for a term of one year : As rotating Secretary J. Brusck , H. Dvorak ,E. Hamman, N. Hegarty and B. Miranda

As Treasurer J. Horner

As Vice Chair P. Solomon

As Chair J. Semuels

All nominees were unanimously elected.

Discussion of enlarging the COA Board was put on the agenda of the December COA meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8: 23 pm.

Respectively submitted,

John L. Bruschi M.D., rotating Secretary