

BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2005

Present: John Brusch, Hildy Dvorak, Neil Hegarty, Jack Kantor, Henry Kazarian, Anne Lougee, Barbara Miranda, Nava Niv-Vogel.

Absent and Excused: Ethel Hamann, Joe Horner, Phyl Solomon.

Neil Hegarty (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the September 12, 2005 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

General Announcements:

- Neil reported on the “great performance” by the Al Natale swing orchestra at the Chenery Auditorium on October 11 to benefit fund raising for the new Senior Center. Several board members stated that in addition to many people having a good time at the concert, Neil presented a convincing case for the new Senior Center.
- The League of Women Voters Senior Center Study will be discussed at the Senior Center on October 18th at 1:30 p.m.
- Neil will discuss the need for a new Senior Center at the League’s Fall meeting at the library on Thursday, October 20.
- Discussion ensued on the historic juncture for elders in the town; the Special Town meeting next Monday night at which time a debt exclusion will be discussed (Article #7) and approval will be voted on to approve the use of town funds for the design and construction of the senior center, the total amount to be reduced by private funds raised, pending approval by the town voters on November 14. The Senior Center Building Committee and the architect will be making presentations at Town Meeting. Barbara reported that the sign announcing the coming of a senior center is up at the Kendall School site. Advocacy for the center continues by the Friends, Belmont Elderly Citizens and others. It was clarified that the new senior center will be available for community use after 4 p.m. on week days and all day on weekends in the same way as the schools are available after hours. It was discussed that this use of the new center should be communicated and emphasized to the public.
- The Belmont Dramatic Club is having a Mystery Play and Tea at the Payson Park Church on Sunday afternoon, October 23rd to benefit the Senior Center.

Springwell Report: Springwell’s annual hearing will be held on Friday the 21st. Representative Ann Paulson will speak. Springwell has a modest increase in their budget which is being used to assist the lowest paid workers and to support the Elder Protective Services Program.

Director’s Report: Neil asked if Nava had heard from Tom Younger regarding the status of the Senior Center custodial position. The question was posed because Neil met with

Tom briefly to ask about this and was told that a response would be forthcoming within the week. Nava reported that she has not heard yet from Tom regarding this issue. She talked about the temporary use of the trailers and that the move will result in a serious impact on the many programs currently offered by the senior center. The director is beginning to work on identifying those programs that will need alternative spaces and finding alternative sites for those programs. She also reported that the problem of obtaining a lifeguard for the swimming program has been solved with the hiring of a part-time life guard. During the past week of the long rainstorms, the senior center roof leaked, causing flooding and buckling of the center of the gym floor. Exercise classes had to be canceled. The Archdiocese is responsible for fixing the roof and the director of Buildings and Grounds also committed to insuring that the floor will be patched up ASAP.

New Business:

- A motion was made and seconded and the Board voted in the slate of COA officers for the coming year, Chair, Neil Hegarty, Vice-Chair, Barbara Miranda, Treasurer, Joe Horner, Secretary (rotating) John Brusch, Anne Lougee, Joel Semuels, Phyl Solomon.
- The Friends of the COA annual meeting will be held on Wednesday October 19th. Neil reiterated that the fund raising efforts will continue after Town meeting and the election of Nov. 14.

Professional Development of the Board: Ann announced that Police Chief O'Malley will be coming to the December meeting of the COA Board to discuss issues of mutual concern.

The next COA Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 7th at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel M. Semuels