

Belmont Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting November 1, 2004
Belmont Senior Center
Present: P .Solomon, H .Kazarian, E .Hamann, N. Hegarty, J. Kantor, J. Horner, A.
Lougee, B. Miranda, T. Morabito, J. Bruschi
Absent: J. Samuels

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by chairman, Neil Hegarty.
Acceptance of Minutes. With one correction to spelling the October minutes were
unanimously accepted.

General Announcements. Several board members commented on the Environmental Fair
held October 23rd where an architectural model of the proposed Beech St. senior center
was on display. The public reaction was generally favorable .Many thought the design was
appropriate for the neighborhood and liked the use of geothermal heating in its design.
Questions on issues such as funding and the need for a senior center were handled by
volunteers from the COA board. It was the general opinion that the display impressed the
attendees as they were given a better sense of how the actual building would present on
the site and that the town is moving closer to construction. Neil pointed out that some
skepticism remains amongst town residents as to whether a senior center is truly desired
by seniors, citing an old survey done in the eighties. Some discussion followed on
whether the model should be placed on display or returned to the architect.

Springwell Report. The annual audit is completed and Springwell was presented as
financially stable. ~The agency is operating properly.

~~~ It was announced that the Protective Services Department received word that they will  
be receiving funding for another 2.5 positions. ( a half time supervisor and 2 full-time  
protective service workers.) ~This includes Elder At Risk clients.

~~~ The Springwell Board continues to look at ways to be sure that the communities  
served know "who Springwell is" and what services are offered.

Director's Report. See attached. Addendum The board voted to ask Nava to invite
Dr.Robert Schreiber to the Dec. 6 board meeting to speak on geriatric community health
programs within the structure of the C.O.A. It was also noted that Mr. Fix It a.k.a. Joe
Horner has raised over \$3000 this year in donations to the COA.

Other Reports. Barbara Miranda reported on the status of activities of The Friends of the
COA fundraising committee. Committee member and trainer Ellen Stevens has provided a
"tip sheet" on the best approach to solicit contributions . The Friends are planning a kick
off party for the public campaign sometime after the first of the year. The committee has
compiled a list of potential major contributors . Once the committee has determined the
dollar amount of pledges received the Town will then ask voters for a debt exclusion to
cover the difference in the estimated total cost of senior center construction.

New Business. Information on property taxes and tax breaks for seniors was distributed
for board members to read and Neil asked members to think of how to better inform
seniors about these programs.
Nava provided copies of the fiscal '06 budget . Due to increased salary and benefit costs
funds for the day trips would have to be reduced to compensate if the budget is to be level
funded. The budget was unanimously approved by the board.
The board voted to allow the swimming program to be administered by the Recreation
Dept. and that the request for this transfer be made to the Town this budget cycle.

Following some discussion the \$10,000 gift to the COA from the Barbara Jack Estate was approved by the board to be deposited into a B.E.C. account by the treasurer. The use of this gift is unrestricted and will be determined by the board in the future.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.