

**Belmont Council on Aging  
Board Meeting  
March 2, 2009**

Present: John Brusch, Diana Dick, Neil Hegarty, Henry Kazarian, Angela Mullin, Judy Morrison, Phyl Solomon, Joel Semuels. Ethel Hamann, Chair  
Nava Niv-Vogel, Director  
Absent: Jack Kantor

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m.

The Minutes of the meeting of 02-02-09 were approved on a motion by Joel Semuels and seconded by Diana Dick.

The Minutes of the meeting of 02-23-09 were approved on a motion by Joel Semuels and seconded by Judy Morrison.

Director's Report: The move of the place Center to the modular classrooms at the High School is scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2009. This has been reported in the Senior Notes. There was a request by the Director for assistance in developing a small map of the new location to be distributed to seniors. There will also be a notice in the Belmont Herald reminding everyone of the move. Following the move, the subsequent weeks will be spent planning for the move to the new center.

One issue for which there is no immediate remedy is finding a location for the regular Bingo game that takes place at the Center. The Belmont Senior Organization is the sponsor, holds a current license for gaming but at present there is no location. There was also a discussion about whether or not the Organization can continue as sponsor since their corporation has expired. There will be further discussion of this issue in the future. A brief budget discussion indicated there will not be the usual meetings with sub-committees of the Warrant Committee due to the lack of clarity in Town budget preparations.

The Director reported that the Belmont Food Pantry has submitted a request for permanent space in the new Center. This will be discussed further, but the initial indication was that space in the new center has been very carefully designed to meet program needs and there is no identifiable space to accommodate such a large permanent operation.

Springwell Report: Springwell successfully organized an Advocacy Day at the State House on 02-26-09. The issue for which support was sought was the funding for the Equal Choice program whereby candidates needing care can have a choice of remaining at home with support services or opting for nursing home care when necessary. Five representatives hosted meetings as well as staff from five other offices.

Springwell reports that even during this time of economic distress, the agency is open to new referrals and has a Managed Intake system to triage client needs to the required service.

Building Committee Report: The Building Committee is conducting discussions with Groom Construction regarding the delay in the timetable. Otherwise, the work is progressing as Building Committee members observed during a recent tour of the building. Considerable progress has been made inside with some of the second floor walls being finished with plaster. Many of the mechanical systems are in place. The multi-purpose room roof and siding are nearing completion.

Friends of the COA report: The Friends are preparing a short newsletter that may focus on the progress of the new building. There was also a discussion about an opening celebration. More details on the opening will be forthcoming as progress on the building continues.

Transportation Working Group: There was a report from the Transportation Working Group that will be continued at subsequent meetings. The Boston College graduate student is 'staffing' this working group. Initial impressions from the data collected are that there is little likelihood that exact comparisons can be made between communities due to the wide range of funding and differing needs in the communities surveyed. One early indication is that all communities consider transportation to be a core service within their centers.

After-hours use: There is a working group looking into developing policies for after-hour use of the new center. Beginning issues are: sensitivity to the neighborhood and its density; liability issues for use; the need for custodial services; security/'gatekeeper' in attendance for after-hour use; determining the days and hours that would be available for use and the types of usages that would be appropriate.

At 8:20 p.m, on a motion by Henry Kazarian and seconded by John Bruschi, the committee approved by a unanimous roll call vote to suspend the regular meeting and returned to the Executive Session of 02-23-09.

The Executive Session was terminated at 8:55, p.m. and the COA returned to its regular meeting.

On a motion by Neil Hegarty and seconded by Henry Kazarian, the regular meeting of March was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cornelius M. Hegarty

