

**Newton Council on Aging and Advisory Board Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday, February 26, 2019**

**Attendees:** D. Anger, J-E. Heffron, A. Hoffman, J. Irish, J. Johnson, M. Knapp, N. Krasner, E. Lorant, N. Meltz, M. Meyer, D. Murphy, J. Murray Schulz, J. Pelletier, J. Picard, E. Picard, L. Samelson, A. Sharma, L. Shaw, C A. Shea, T. Shoemaker, G. Szerlip, E. Watkins,

**Notified:** A. Cooper, E. Dugan, J. Johnson, N. Krasner, E. Picard, D. Smith, J. Schultiz, E. Rosenbaum

**Staff:** J. Colino, N. Scammon

**Guests:** J. Belle Isle, S. Rasala, S. Davidow

- I. Call to Order, Welcome, Minutes Approved
  
- II. Howard Haywood  
Howard Haywood, long-time Civil Rights and Affordable Housing Advocate, and COA member died on February 16th, 2019 after a long illness. Before he died, he wrote a poem “Yesterday” that reflected on his daunting advocacy work. COA meeting attendees silently read his poem.
  
- III. Updates:
  - A. Newton’s State elected officials serve on important committees
    1. Ruth Balser Committee on Elder Affairs
    2. Kay Kahn: Committee on Children and Families
  - B. State Elder Affairs
    1. Alice Bonner has stepped down as Secretary
    2. Robin Lipson is action Secretary
  
- IV. Domain Action Team (DATs) Updates
  - A. Social Engagement: SE-DAT – Julie Norstrand
    1. Newton is doing pilot with Friendship Works, a friendly visitor program in Brookline
    2. Julie Joy, Newton Senior Volunteer Coordinator is coordinating program
    3. Five matches between “client” and “visitor” have been made
    4. People heard about it through Emily Kuhl, NDSS SW, Newsletter, & Springwell
    5. Isolation/Loneliness flyer being developed and will tested soon at various locations.
  
  - B. Transportation: T-DAT. Via– J. Colino
    1. Mayor signed a contract with Via, a shared ride service. Via chosen out of 5 proposals because of a clear process, door to door service, dedicated call center, defined wait time, training for drivers, an app. 2-way ratings, and marketing. Via is a wholly owned subsidiary of North River Transit, and is venture capital funded. Service will start in a limited way and be fully operative by July 1, 2019. People will get to know drivers.

People will “populate/fund” their own accounts; vouchers incorporated into accounts or refunded. Fees from \$.50 to \$5.00. Fees for personal attendants TBD. Service will go to current subsidized destinations and grow based on demand; potential for 12 destinations outside Newton; 4 - 6 passengers per vehicle; one vehicle for wheelchairs; cars branded as City of Newton If Via reaches capacity, drivers can use own cars with a placard. Other communities watching Newton’s process. Contract is significant increase in the DSS budget.

2. T-DAT – J. Pelletier
  - a. Because of personal and professional issues, J. Pelletier can't do much leadership.
  - b. Transportation now at City level; TAG is on Better Bus team
  - c. Need to build Transportation DAT

C. Housing: H-DAT – A. Sharma

1. H- DAT advocates for age-friendly housing
2. Team developed list of current and new development projects in Newton
3. Team members and J. Colino met with Northland Development re Needham St project to identify senior needs and develop concept of "Age-friendly Housing."

*Comments:*

- J. Picard: clarify difference between accessible and age-friendly, cost is concern  
D. Murphy: good to collect data and to clarify terms, e.g. 55+, 62+, etc.. Zoning code is in re-draft

D. Communications: C-DAT – J. Irish

1. Internal: COA/AB/Staff bios edited & completed; will be sent to COA, etc., City Council, Mayor.
2. Need completed planning forms from all DATs; J. Irish will send out form
3. Work on developing consistent message, image, structure; also branding with logo/letterhead.
  - a. Working with Newton North student.
4. Need to raise awareness about age-friendly and work of COA

Comments: bigger font on C-DAT plan; how to communicate with/about seniors; senior voice is really important at City Council; in future meetings provide DAT info in advance.

E. Buildings/Outdoor Spaces: B-DAT – M. Knapp

1. B-DAT has now incorporated members of the NewCAL Advisory Building Committee (ABC)
2. Developed list of areas for B-DAT to give input to NewCAL: building design; sense of "community"; location; documents; building management; programs/activities.

V. Other: Community Compact: Jayne Colino

- A. Baker/Polito Administration instituted Community "Best Practices" in various topic areas.
1. Now 6 – 8 Best Practices re age and dementia friendly.
  2. Money is available for projects.
  3. Newton and DSS implementing Policies and Services to help people age in place. Ideas were for NewCAL, Tax Deferral, and/or Transportation.
  4. Newton asked for \$25,000 for implementing the Via service
  5. RFP process was "age-friendly." Executive Office included transportation planning.
  6. Will be on public radio – they are doing long-term story.

VI. Other

- A. Ethics training:  
B. Ilana back next Thursday. Looking at Elizabeth's job  
C. AARP Challenge Grant. Teams should come up with ideas  
D. Chairs being reupholstered by Mass. Corrections  
E. Donna thanks everyone for their work

Meeting Adjourned 9:40

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 7:30, Newton Senior Center**