

COA MINUTES 10/22/19

Donna called the meeting to order at 7:30.

Age Friendly Award

Donna announced the first COA Age Friendly Award, given to recognize people in the City who have made significant contributions to furthering the City's age friendly perspective. There were 12 perspective recipients of the award. The award was granted to **Marian Knapp** for all the work she has done for Newton and the COA over the years.

Jayne talked about her first meeting with Marian and how much she has valued Marian's presence, opinions, leadership and research into working with older adults in our community. In addition to the Age Friendly Award, Marian was presented with a Newton Commemorative throw and a plant representing hopefulness in the future.

Marian thanked the COA for being nominated and for being chosen as the first recipient of this award. She had praise for the work being done by the various domains of the COA and said that she would be happy to provide coaching to any of the domain teams. She talked about being disappointed with the NewCal process for a number of reasons: no deep understanding of the needs and desires of older adults; a lack of respect for older adults; a lack of clearly defined role for the COA in advocating for older adults. She felt that the older population has not been adequately utilized and has not inserted itself into the NewCal working group.

Marian added that she will work with the City Councilors who will be the decision makers in the NewCal process and will use her own voice and her column in the Tab to advocate for NewCal. We must think about the needs of older adults vis-à-vis a senior center and that these needs must be taken seriously.

Transportation Domain Action Team

John Pelletier talked about the need to accommodate pedestrians of all ages, particularly in construction zones, such as the Austin Street project. He asked that the COA endorse a letter written by the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) re construction zones and accommodations to pedestrians. John said that he would draft a letter addressing issues and would bring it to next month's COA meeting.

Snow Shoveling Ordinance

Donna has concerns about imposing fines for not getting shoveling done within 24 hours of the end of a snowstorm. Joyce added that 24 hours is not enough time to clear sidewalks. Tom asked what would happen in case of a big storm dropping 2-3 feet of snow. Allison explained that the system is complaint driven. Residents will

receive a written notice the first time it is reported that their sidewalk is not shoveled. A fine is imposed if the first notice is not responded to. Laura asked about extended use of bobcats for clearing snow. Ernie added that corners where piles of snow are dumped are another big issue. John said that historically, he shovels at bus stops. Julie wondered if it would be possible to exclude certain categories of people. Jayne said that those who have a disability, living alone, can't afford a shoveling service may apply for a waiver. She added that there is no volunteer list of shovelers. The new ordinance allows for residents to apply for an extension to the 24 hour criteria due to religious circumstances.

NewCal News

Norm. The Newton Centre Triangle is seriously being looked at. The Architectural firm is inspecting the site and looking at options such as locating NewCal in a small part of the parking triangle, multiple stories, and parking options. All are encouraged to attend a meeting the next community meeting.

Jayne. Other sites will be looked at such as Aquinas, Ed Center, and the Armory. She added that all meetings would be more open.

Laura. Why not use part of the high school block?

Gordon. The COA needs to be consulted and needs to be a voice in the process. The COA needs more representation on the NewCal committee.

Jayne. The mayor met with the NewCAL Advisory Building Committee to discuss their role moving forward. Albemarle was the only site put forth and the COA Executive Committee felt it was appropriate to show support for the evaluation of the site.

Marian. She has spent a lot of time thinking of next steps and feels that this is the time for the COA to raise its voice and give information to Josh Morse in a positive way. We need to be proactive.

Joan. We must show up at NewCal meetings. She will meet regularly with those who want information about NewCal on a monthly basis starting next month and continuing on the third Tuesday of each month.

Once every two weeks Donna will send out copies of articles and links to articles about aging to those who are interested.

Meeting was ended at 9:15.