

Newton Council on Aging meeting minutes

November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Meeting call to order 7:34 p.m.

Minutes approved from 10-19 meeting

**Present:** Jayne Colino, Donna Murphy (Chair), , Beth Dugan (notetaker), Jo Edith Heffron, Adele Hoffman, Jessica Johnson, Marian Knapp, Naomi Krasner, Ena Lorant, Norm Meltz, Maria Meyer, John Pelletier, Ernest Picard, Joyce Picard, Eric Rosenbaum, Nancy Scammon, Allison Sharma, Laura Shaw ,Tom Shoemaker, Gordon Szerlip, and Emma Watkins.

**Absent:** Julie Irish, Julie Norstrand, Joan Murray Shultz, Dave Smith, Lisa Samelson,

**Guests:** Sue Rasala, Joan Belle Isle, Dov Bard, Tyrone Hooks, Dan Shaw, Mary Glendon

**NewCAL discussion-** Norman Meltz reported that the Newton Center triangle remains the focus of the working group. The conversation has been focused mostly on the parking challenges. It is acknowledged that a parking engineer would need to assess the possibilities. NewCALI in Newton Center would either be part of or the impetus for a complete envisioning process with the planning department for the entire area. We will be soliciting more public input on multiple sites looking to increase consensus. The next community meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> we plan to engage the community to ask about pros and cons on a number of specific sites including Newton Center. The Mayor has asked that some of the sites that were not seen as the most viable sites initially be put back on the table for reconsideration and further evaluation.

**A discussion on the concept of a centralized facility versus decentralized** facilities ensued. Below are comments and questions from the conversation:

There would be staffing challenges in a decentralized model if staffing had to cover many sites.

The other sites that would need to be considered for use would also incur a cost for renovations of those buildings.

Communication about what we do already is a challenge and would be a greater challenge needing to communicate what programs and services were happening at the various locations in a decentralized model.

There was a similar conversation and process under the Mayor Mann Administration regarding Newton Community Education with efforts to centralize. Their centralized model has been successful.

The YMCA model is a hybrid that has a centralized building with programs in community partner buildings.

There is merit to having a large centralized building with smaller programs around the city not necessarily services all over the city. It is acknowledged that that is how we are currently functioning true Senior Services and Parks and Recreation.

It would be hard to find expertise in programming provision for multiple sites

Centralized model provides a hub for all regardless of race, economics or geography.

The decentralized model may result in inequality of distribution of programs and continuity would be a challenge.

You can't replicate everything at every site.

Transportation would be a challenge for many in a decentralized model.

Funding requests from outside sources may be more difficult because they look to serve the masses.

It would be hard to control the quality of programs.

There is a concern that it has been hard to come to a consensus about one site how difficult would it become to gain consensus about multiple sites?

Donna Murphy calls for a vote by show of hands for those in favor of a centralized model versus a decentralized model. All were in favor the vote was unanimous to support centralized model for NewCAL.

Conversation ensued about the difference between **intergenerational vs. Multi-generational**. They have been used interchangeably. For our purposes we are using the term multi-generational which means programs across the generations as compared to intergenerational which is interaction between two generations. It was stated that having a senior only facility has risks and drawbacks not the least of which is keeping older adults isolated and marginalized. Multi-generational opportunities decrease the opportunity for ageism. A multi-generational facility will be an asset for the entire community.

We revisited a conversation about the NewCAL vision statement and its commitment to older adult residents.

Marion Knapp presented a PowerPoint about her vision for the Council on Aging's role for the development of NewCAL. See attached.

Conversation ensued in response to the PowerPoint.

The only limit to more Innovation at the Newton Senior Center is our current space.

The focus of the conversation should not be on defining the programming at this point. We should be focusing on site selection. Defining programming will become a very important role for the Council on Aging once we have site consensus.

Meeting adjourned 9:12 p.m.