

## Newton Council on Aging & Advisory Board Meeting

January 24, 2017

Present:

Notified:

Staff:

Guests:

- Law Department Advice: M. Knapp & J. Colino
  - J. Colino and M. Knapp met with Ouida Young, Associate City Solicitor, for guidance on what the COA can support and the best strategies to use when advocating for a specific project or proposal.
  - Solicitor Young indicated that the COA has the right to support particular projects or proposals in order to advocate for the population we are mandated to serve. We must be careful of the language we use in statements about our support, in particular, not use the term “endorsement.”
  - **Action:**
    - A summary of the discussion with Solicitor Young is attached<sup>#</sup>
    - This summary will be filed as a “memo to file” for reference in any future decisions
- 2. Accessory Apartment Ordinance: D. Murphy
  - D. Murphy explained the proposed Accessory Apartment Ordinance.
    - The Ordinance allows Accessory Apartments “by-right” rather than by special permit
    - Rationales for the ordinances are: prevents isolation because there is potential to have someone else in the home; improves safety because of requirement to meet safety codes; supports all ages & generations
    - D. Murphy had drafted a statement in support of the ordinance. Statement was read.
    - There is potential for people to get CDBG funds for repairs and to remove architectural barriers
  - **Action:**
    - A motion was made and seconded to approve an Accessory Apartment Ordinance in general
      - Vote was unanimous in favor of supporting an Accessory Apartment Ordinance
    - M. Knapp will send e-mails with COA statement to: City Council, Mayor, the TAB, and others as appropriate, on behalf of the COA. Statement and e-mail is attached.<sup>#</sup>
    - Individual COA/AB members should contact City Councilors to indicate their support.
    - Final City Council Vote will be on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
- 3. Leaf Blower Ordinance: COA/AB Members
  - The new Leaf Blower ordinance passed the City Council
    - Leaf Blower Ordinance does not apply to City and golf clubs
- 4. Outside Presenters to the COA/AB: COA/AB Members
  - The COA/AB must develop guidelines for potential presenters to the COA re topic; time limits; format; etc.
  - **\*Action:**
    - M. Knapp will develop draft guidelines
- 5. Mayoral Candidates: COA/AB Members
  - Mayoral candidates want to understand senior issues. They have requested meetings with J. Colino & M. Knapp.
  - **\*Action:**
    - Hold a COA/AB sponsored forum for mayoral candidates
      - Consider having LWV as a sponsor of a section
      - Have the forum filmed
    - Develop a senior-focused platform for candidates to respond to. Rough Draft attached\*
- 6. Charter Commission: H. Haywood
  - There will be a public hearing on March 15<sup>th</sup> on the Charter Commission recommendations
  - Recommendations will be on the ballot for the November election.

- Charter Commission researched the sizes of City Councils and Boards in other communities
- Focus of the recommendations is accountability
- Currently 1/3 of the City Council is not accountable to the whole city, but it votes on city-wide issues
- **\*Action:**
  - Consider if the COA/AB should make a statement about the recommendations. Discuss at next meeting

7. PLAAN Update: M. Leipsitz

- Listening sessions/interviews are being conducted with the general public and specific groups.
- We are learning a great deal about numerous issues
- A summary will be provided that will inform COA/AB planning

8. Springwell Report: N. Krasner

- Springwell serves Belmont, Brookline, Needham, Newton, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley, & Weston.
- They provide legal, counseling, geriatric assessments, caregiver support, and many other services.

9. Senior Citizens Fund of Newton: N. Brown

- Fund drive raised approximately \$10,000.
- Fund-raising letter focused on Emergency Funds
- There is need for ongoing fundraising efforts

10. Housing Guide: D. Murphy

- The Housing Guide is complete in draft form.
- **\*Action:**
  - COA/AB members review Housing Guide
  - Determine Distribution

11. Community Engagement: M. Scammon (?)

- Spring Fling is March 26, 2017
- Senior Prom is May 18<sup>th</sup> – theme is Kentucky Derby

12. Budget: J. Colino

- Initial budget process has begun. Requests include
  - Facilities improvement, e.g., industrial cleaning
  - Part-time program assistant to support evening, weekends and off-site programs
  - Increase in transportation to places like BID in Needham, Harvard Vanguard, W. Roxbury
    - Resources for a “loop” system (?)

13. Other: J. Colino

- I. Seidmann will be on maternity leave until April 18<sup>th</sup>. Her job has been divided up among staff.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 p.m.

**\*Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

**Submitted by Marian Knapp**

**Next Meeting: February 28, 2017, 7:30**