

Newton Council on Aging & Advisory Board Meeting

February 28, 2017

Present: N. Brown, C. Gibson, H. Haywood, J. Heffron, A. Hoffman, M. Knapp, N. Krasner, E. Lorant, D. Murphy, j. Nordstrand, S. Paley E. Picard, J. Picard, CA. Shea, E. Watkins,

Notified: A, Cooper, B. Dugan

Staff: J. Colino, E. Rosenbaum, N. Scammon

Guests: Joan Bell Isle

1. Chair/Director's report: M. Knapp & J. Colino

- Marian shared a draft of an Age-Friendly Platform document. It represents both our strategic goals and the Age-Friendly domains. The COA/AB and staff need to populate it with specific needs/goals in each area. Mary O'Neil, the consultant from SOAR that lead our strategic planning process has been asked to facilitate a retreat with COA Executive Committee members to help to fill in the specifics of our Age-Friendly platform that will guide our discussions with Mayoral candidates and to educate/engage the community in general in our mission. COA members and staff perspectives as well as the findings from the listening sessions will feed this process.
- Updates on recent listening sessions was summarized and a list of upcoming sessions was circulated with encouragement to participate/ help to facilitate. The most recent listening session/ interviews was shared:
- Library staff-main outcome was need for translators in the children's library for mandarin speaking grandparents
- elder affairs police officer-falls and scams
- fire-challenges to emergency responses to assisted living facilities , falls, home maintenance and isolation.
- Lasell College has offered an intern to begin creating an Age-Friendly Library for access through senior services website by the public. It may also be a repository for all the documents we are creating and to depict the status of our PLAAN process.

2. Springwell Report: Naomi Krasner

- Naomi reports as the newly appointed Newton representative to the Springwell board.
- Springwell serves people 64 and over and people with disabilities in 8 towns including Newton.
- They have recently held focus groups as part of their planning process.
- The volunteer Money Management Program was presented at a recent board meeting , an overview was shared with council members.

3. Senior Fund Report: Nancy Brown

- Nancy reports that the returns so far on this year's fundraising letter is \$11,300.
- \$1000.00 was collected because of our collection of button batteries at the senior center

4. Housing Group Report: Donna Murphy

- The draft of the housing guide is being proofread by a volunteer recruited by Julie Joy for this project.
- Donna has been asked to present at BCAN regarding the work the housing group has been involved in: age-friendly housing criteria, the housing guide and advocacy for an accessory apartment ordinance reform.
- The accessory apartment process is still open. Marian reported on a public meeting she attended and spoke at recently. Member are encouraged to write to their city councilors asking for their support of this ordinance.

5. Old/New Business:

- It is announced that Ernie Picard after many of years of providing face to face SHINE counselling that he will be semi-retiring and moving to Needham to provide phone counselling. Jayne thanked him for his service all these years and for confidence and empowerment he provided to customers in what can be a very overwhelming area. THANK YOU ERNIE!!!
- Jayne announced that our afternoon custodian Ken Doucette is resigning after 12 years of service. THANK YOU KEN!!!
- Joyce shared info about the Washington Place project possibly being refiled as a 40 B project because the votes necessary to change the zoning were not there. She also brought people's attention to an article in the Globe about the Aging Housing Crisis we are facing not only in Newton but across the country.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 28th, 2017, 7:30