

Newton Council on Aging & Advisory Board Meeting December 19, 2017

Present: B. Dugan, H. Haywood, A. Hoffman, M. Knapp, N. Krasner, E. Lorant, D. Murphy, J. Norstrand, S. Paley, E. Picard, J. Picard, CA. Shea, N. Scammon, T. Shoemaker,

Visitors: J. Bell Isle, S. Rasala, L. Shaw

Notified: N. Brown, J. Colino, A. Cooper, E. Watkins

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.; minutes were approved (motion to accept: CA Shea; Second: S. Paley; no nay votes.)

- II. Chair's/Director's Report

- Mayoral Transition

Marian is drafting a statement on Age Friendliness for the Transition Teams and for Mayor-Elect Fuller. She has distributed a first draft and solicited feedback; asked for input as this is an opportunity to identify areas where we need assistance/cooperation from the administration.

- Needham St Visioning Committee

First meeting was held; the meeting materials are available on the Planning Dept's website. The Needham St discussion segued into a discussion on housing challenges in general in the City, the difficulty that developers face in getting anything build, and the lack of focus on the types of housing that are needed.

Howard Haywood raised the issue of the Crescent St development, a 100% city owned parcel that is queued to be converted into a park and 8 living units (2 at 60% AMI, 2 at 80% AMI, 2 at 120% AMI and two market rate). City is committed to spend \$1.3M to improve the park. It was pointed out that this would be a great location for housing for seniors, rented at reasonable rents (above affordable but below market).

Donna Murphy pointed out that Joyce Picard had made that exact point about the Newton Center Library location; it would be an ideal spot for a Senior Village, but housing for seniors wasn't even considered as an option.

Carol Ann Shea moved that we draft a statement to the Mayor expressing our desire that housing for seniors be considered for all city-sponsored developments, and specifically that a second look be taken at both Crescent St and Newton Center. Howard Haywood seconded and all approved. Donna Murphy will draft.

- COA Structure moving forward

The COA is going to organize around groups/key areas identified by the PLAAN initiative:

Housing led by Donna Murphy

Transportation led by TBD

Community Engagement (including issues of Social Isolation) led by Julie Norstrand

Advocacy led by Carol Ann Shea, and

New Senior Center Building led by TBD

Each group will be tasked with identifying their Goal/Purpose, identifying supporting projects, and recruiting participants.

Beth Dugan talked about the growing awareness of the need for age-friendly initiatives. As a member of the Governor's Council on Age Friendliness, she emphasized that the Governor is supporting the inclusion of age friendliness at every touchpoint in state government (including in the Community Compacts with local municipalities).

III. Springwell Report

- The 40th anniversary gala was held in September.
- Transportation, as highlighted in last meeting, remains a significant challenge (read: "disaster" due to advent of services like Uber and Lyft)

IV. Working Group Reports

- Housing: AARP Grant- So You Want to Stay in Your Home

The Housing Group is working on integrating feedback from the AARP Project, and will work on developing a program that can be offered on a regular basis to those interested in aging in place.

v. Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm