

Council on Aging and Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2016
7:30 p.m.
Newton Senior Center

Attendance: N. Krasner, J. Picard, E. Picard, H. Heywood, T. Shoemaker, B. Dugan, C. Gibson, N. Scammon, S. Paley, JE Heffron, A. Hoffman, N. Brown, D. Murphy, H. Gunner, J. Norstrand, T. Shoemaker, E. Wade, C. Rose, J. Colino, Director NSC

Notified: E. Lorant, CA Shea, A. Cooper, M. Knapp

1. Welcome/Call to Order/Approval of Minutes/Introductions

2. Age-Friendly Livable Community Strategy Committee: the letter and application is in the Mayor's Office in final draft and it will be submitted by the Mayor's Office. What next with the strategy group? A last meeting will be schedule. Would it make sense to appoint interested members to the Advisory Board? There are currently openings on the Advisory Board. Maybe more flexibility to keep as an outside group. A hybrid group is likely.

Deb Youngblood will be invited to a joint meeting of the COA and Age Friendly group to present on Newton leads 2040 and the Coalition for Economic Growth for All to both groups. Jayne will send out the 2040 report electronically.

Marian and Jayne have met with a new reporter of **Newton Tab**, Jonathan Dame, and will supply him with people to speak to about the different topics of aging in Newton. **Memory Cafe** was his first topic. Memory Cafe is a welcoming place and part of the dementia-inclusiveness movement. Designed for people with cognitive issues and their caretaker to enjoy together. Program will be piloted at the NSC the third Wednesday of each month. Jayne will be meeting with Newton Wellesley Weston Committee for Independent Living about partnering for a funding opportunity through the Department of Developmental Services. Those who want to volunteer will receive training. 15% of the people in Newton over 65 have been identified has having dementia.

Changes have occurred in Social Services. We are hiring a new director to provide clinical supervision to case managers and coordinate all social work throughout the city including schools. Emily and Sandy are sound in their roles as case managers. Emily is running a caregiver support group.

3. Newton Talks: a new oral history program through Historic Newton and the Newton Free Library, Senior Services, and Veterans Services. Crossing Generations, a club at NSHS, will be doing the interviewing with the Newton Vets group, to be announced at the February Veteran's meeting. All to capture people's stories which will be indexed, catalogued and searchable through the library network. Interested vets will receive information and questions, scheduled through Ilana Levine. Information will be shared at the Vet Center meeting Tuesday night. The program will expand to other Newton residents in the future.

4. Membership Report: Carol Rose will be moving out of state in June. She is representing us at a state Intergenerational Summit next week. Also, Diane Sostek has moved to Waltham so will be on the

Advisory Board but needs to resign from the Council on Aging as proscribed in the by-laws. She wants to stay involved in Newton. Therefore, there are now two commissioner appointments that will be vacated. The position in charge of commission and board appointments has been hired.

5. **Springwell Report:** Board meeting is this week so Adele will report next month.

6. **Senior Citizens Fund:** has brought in over \$11,000 to date for the emergency fund.

7. **Working Group Reports:**

Housing: Criteria document finished and on website. Interested in why people are moving out. The fourth housing strategy meeting with the consultants was held last night and members of our housing group attended. The meeting was discussed and the PowerPoint from the meeting will be posted on the website.

Transportation: The Mayor has hired transportation consultants to prepare a housing strategy that will address mobility needs now and into the future. The transportation advisory group met today with the consultants and James Freas. Holly pointed out the goals that were essential for senior's quality of life. She made a packet of materials for the attendees of the meeting using the city census. The consulting group is holding strategy envisioning meetings around the city.

Engagement: Nancy Scammon, Ilana Levine, and other senior service staff including Newton at Home, have created a partnership that meets once a month to share ideas and programs. They have been working together at the Tiger Loft and evening theater. The senior prom planning has begun for Thursday, May 19. It will be a masquerade ball. The next theater program is March 20th. Everything we do as a department is about engagement.

8. **Legislative Report:** Fortunately the elder affairs line items were not touched by recent 9C cuts.

9. **Sylvia Goldberg bequest** has been approved for expenditure and will be used toward the two part-time positions, volunteer coordinator and marketing/outreach position. There was discussion about the fact that the two part-time positions won't have benefits.

10. **Old/New business :**

- Tom announced that February 7 is Four Chaplains Sunday. Very touching story that everyone should look up.
- Jayne spoke about a TED talk about a longitudinal study on happiness. The secret for longevity and happiness is connections and relationships.
- The McCourt Foundation Alzheimer's Conference email was sent out by Jane and will be held at the Newton Marriot.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Submitted by Carol Rose