

Newton Council on Aging Advisory Board Meeting
October 22, 2013
Newton Senior Center
345 Walnut Street Newtonville MA 02460

Present: E. Rosenbaum, J. Fischbach, J. Picard, E. Picard, T. Shoemaker, N. Harstone, H. Haywood, E. Krasney, J. Stolbach, J.E. Heffron, A. Hoffman, N. Brown, D. Sostek, S. Paley, C. Rose,
Staff: J. Colino
Notified: M. Knapp, A. Cooper, S. Farnham, C.A. Shea, H. Gunner, M. Claflin, D. Salzberg
Guests: Donna Murphy, Donna Sirutis, Lois Martin, Chryse Gibson

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

- Susan Paley called the meeting to order at 7:40. Minutes were approved. Two visitors asked if the meeting was open to the public. (Yes)

II. Chair's/Director's Report:

- Visitors welcomed and introduced.

-Needs Assessment Update: Contract went in yesterday. The first meeting with UMASS was last week and included Holly, Adele, Jayne, Susan, Carol, Marian, Lynne Feinman, and Julie Norstrand. Committee "sliced and diced" so the assessment would reflect Newton. It will go out to residents 50 y.o and over, 4000 + will be mailed, asking, to the extent possible, non-age-specific questions. One question: What kind of housing would keep you in Newton? Survey will be finished in November; in the field December and January, then go out in March. It will contain 45 questions and eight pages.

-West Suburban Area Alzheimer's Partnership Caregiver's Forum is Saturday October 26 from 9:00-noon at the American Legion Post 440. There will be a table for the area Councils on Aging to distribute information. Eric Rosenbaum is one of the panelists that will be addressing different aspects of safety and dementia.

-Historic Newton's program Newton Salutes allows Newton organizations to visually display their history. In recognition of the senior center's 20th anniversary Newton Salutes will be featuring the history of the NSC building. There will be a reception at the museum on Thursday October 24 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. All are invited. The exhibit will be open for four months.

III. Working Groups Reports

- Mobility/Transportation (No report- Holly not here)

- Housing- Joyce reported that the Newton Housing Partnership meeting (second Tuesday @ 7:45 a.m.) was welcoming, anything you want to say should be submitted in writing beforehand. The partnership is concerned with allocation of federal funds for projects and is interested in all levels of housing. Joyce said the mayor told her "It will happen" referring to reasonably-priced housing. Joyce will be attending the Newton Housing Partnership meetings. Jayne thanked Joyce on behalf of herself and Marian for her willingness to participate. Howard is a member of the partnership and spoke about the process. He mentioned that there are openings in the partnership. Susan said anyone interested should submit a letter and resume to Ana Gonzales, Community Engagement Director.

- Information was shared about an opportunity to view presentations from all the Austin St proposed developers on October 30th at NNHS. Doors to open at 5:30 pm.

- Awareness/Engagement- Diane reported that the Community Engagement Meeting was held at the NSC last week. The turnout was small. The session included several presenters including Alicia Bowman (Transportation Advisory Group), Sgt. Jay Babcock (police), Ana Gonzales (Mayor's Office, Community Engagement), Bill Paille (transportation) and Elaine Gentile (Dept. of Public Works, Beautification). They spoke about the myriad of transportation/pedestrian/mobility efforts including new bike lanes and the new signage and lighting. Jayne suggested the city could use seniors to assist in change education through the tax write-off program. Diane mentioned that her interest in volunteering landed her a place doing public service in the mayor's office one morning a week.

- The League of Women Voters will be holding a forum for a mayoral debate at the library.

IV. Springwell

- Adele spoke about how much Springwell has grown and mentioned their new CEO. Springwell is the Aging Services Access Point and Newton is in their catchment area. Adele requested time on a future agenda to give a more in depth and comprehensive report on the programs and services Springwell provides.

V. Membership Report

- Jayne said that they were currently in the process of interviewing for new members.

VI. Senior Citizens' Fund

- Letter will be going out soon.

VII. Legislative Report: Vote November 5th.

VIII. Other Business

- Eric is on a panel "Internet & Email Scams and Identity Theft" at Bishop McKenzie Center (Sacred Heart Church) November 5 from 9:30-1:30 (includes lunch)

- Let Jayne know if you're interested in participating in a video project for the 20th anniversary celebration.

- Veteran's Day ceremony will include speaker Joe Dooley.

- Guest Lois Martin spoke about her difficult experience with the reduction of blood pressure clinics in the city. Her greatest concern focused on the fact that the clinic at the senior center is no longer available. The only location available offers limited hours at City Hall. Jayne affirmed that others have voiced this frustration. Lois requested that the COA look further into this issue and to consider taking a formal position on the matter. This will be placed on the agenda for the COA Executive Committee meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by Carol Rose