

MINUTES
NEWTON COUNCIL ON AGING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012

A meeting of the Newton Council on Aging (NCOA) was held at the Newton Senior Center (NSC), 345 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA on Tuesday, January 24, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Marian Knapp, Chair.

Commissioners Present: Nancy Brown, Mary Claffin, Marian Knapp, Ellen Krasney, Susan Paley.

Commissioners Absent: Audrey Cooper (notified), Louise Hauser (notified), Howard Haywood.

Advisory Council Members Present: Kenneth Chang, Shirley Farnham, Holly Gunner, Jo-Edith Heffron, Adele Hoffman, Joyce Picard, Ernest Picard, Carol Rose, Dena Salzberg, Nancy Scammon, Carol Ann Shea, Tom Shoemaker, Diane Sostek, Jeanne Stolbach.

Advisory Council Members Absent: Robert A. DeSimone (notified), Margaret Dwyer, Norman Hartstone, Eric Rosenbaum (notified), Ruth Sherman (notified).

Staff Present: Jayne Colino, Director of Senior Services, Newton (NCOA/NSC).

Guest Present: Juliet Chang.

The **Minutes of the December 13, 2011 meeting of the NCOA** were moved, seconded and approved as written. **Marian** welcomed members.

Director's Report/Request. **Jayne** distributed a booklet prepared by the Mass. Ethics Commission and provided by the Newton City Clerk's office which requires each NCOA Member (Commissioners and Advisory Board Members) to sign a **Conflict of Interest Statement** (each year). All present provided signed copies of the statement as required, and submitted them to Jayne, who will file them with the Newton City Clerk's office. (Members who were absent at this meeting will be provided the 2012 booklets in the near future and will be required to sign, accordingly.) Jayne spoke briefly about the **SOAR 55 Team** (Mary O'Neil, Chris Ross and Ingrid Joy Wolfson) which has initiated the **Strategic Planning Process** for the NSC. Jayne and her Staff are working with the Team and, as a part of the process, will be evaluating the roles of the NCOA Commissioners and Advisory Board. The team also will require two 2-day strategic planning retreats (9 am-2 pm) and 1 half-day retreat (9-12). These may involve about 15 people from the Newton Senior Center (e.g., Staff—1 Social Worker, possibly the Administrative Coordinator, 2 to 3 customers; 2-3 NCOA members, possibly one with an historical perspective, one who is new, one who is a customer; 1 Board of Aldermen—possibly Ald. Amy Sangiolo; 1 from the Executive Office; 1 from CDBG, which is the largest funder of the NSC; 1 from Springwell). It is expected that the Strategic Planning Project may complete its work by 4/30/12. Currently, the NSC is collecting some data about organizations serving seniors although that is not their mission particularly, e.g., The Assessor's Office, Neighborhood

Area Councils, CDBG, Newton Free Library, Newton Art Center, Lasell College. (These represent non-profit organizations which do not require a membership fee.) At this time **Diane** is inter-relating with NSC participants to get personal data, such as age of participants and information from people who come into the NSC randomly (for parking stickers, SHINE, appointments with nurses). She is asking what they may want from the NSC in the future. **Jayne** circulated a Newton Dept. of Sr. Svcs. (NDSS) Strategic Planning Survey instrument to NCOA members who volunteered to telephone organizations and/ or individuals in Newton to collect data (2/15/12 deadline).

Chair's Report. **Marian** distributed a Summary of Specific Projects which she had prepared, based on the November 22, 2011 Brainstorming Session of the NCOA. **Possible topics/activities focused on Newton Seniors which the NCOA might pursue** fall into the following categories: **Education and Awareness of Senior Issues, Advocacy (Health, Wellbeing, etc.), Support (Resources), Research and Documentation (New Programs/Activities), Integration/ Community Building, Outreach, Legislation and Self Management/Self-Education.** It was suggested to combine the Advocacy and Legislation categories. Discussion was catalyzed by the Summary. Some comments: Regarding Education and Awareness & Advocacy and Legislation, **Holly** suggested that **Members of NCOA might as individuals attend meetings of other Committees/groups**, mentioning some of our NCOA projects when appropriate, and bringing back pertinent information to our regular meetings. In doing so as individuals we would raise awareness in the community of the activities of the NCOA, while listening for issues/needs of Newton's senior residents which we can bring back to our meetings. **Dena** observed that many of the NCOA members are already involved with various groups/committees in Newton, including Transportation, the Health Department, Fair Housing Commission, Recreation Department, Springwell, Newton League of Women Voters, the Veterans' Organization, the Police Department, etc. It was suggested that **Liaison Reports** be added as a standing Agenda item for NCOA Meetings and reports from members would be welcome, as appropriate. It was suggested that an NCOA member might serve as an Advocate to the Mayor's office, possibly through a relationship with Megan Costello, Chief of Community Relations. **Holly** will confer further with Jayne about this idea. Regarding the Education and Awareness category, "**Coming of Age**" newsletter deliveries around the City, particularly to doctors' offices and the Newton/ Wellesley Hospital should be expanded. Currently, there are about 15 to 20 locations (including senior housing sites). For example, the newsletter should be brought to Newton's nursing homes. Tom, offered to form a group with **Ernest and Mary** to work together to review current delivery sites, how deliveries are being made, etc. They will confer with Audrey Cooper who coordinates newsletter deliveries. Jayne reported that the greatest number of newcomers to the Senior Center learned about the Center through the newsletter. The next largest group of new referrals result from word-of-mouth and the third come from reading the "Newton Tab." Regarding the Self-Management and Self-Education category **Carol Rose**

and **Jeanne** volunteered to work on generating a list of possible Speakers for NCOA meetings. **Joyce** will speak at our February NCOA meeting on Housing Facts/Advocacy for Seniors in Newton. **Carol Ann** mentioned that a Newton Housing Forum will be held on March 1st at City Hall. A potential speaker is Alice Ingerson, Manager of the Community Preservation Program, as suggested by Howard Haywood. **Jayne** mentioned that by using councilonaging@newtonma.gov members can get information out to each other.

Legislative Report. **Jayne** reported that a first meeting on **FY13 for the City** was held earlier today. Good news: no staff cuts! Joanne Fisher plans to retire in August (after 20 years at the NSC) and her position will be available for rehiring. A significant shortage because of cuts to CDBG funding is expected to be made up by Salary Reserve Line items. **A new contract for Transportation Services** commencing July 1st will be bid and determined sometime in April.

Springwell. Due to tonight's full Agenda, **Adele** agreed to postpone her Report until our next meeting.

Old/New Business. **Ellen** reported that she is working on the **Membership Packet Project**. She also reported that there are **currently 3 Commissioner vacancies on NCOA**.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Newton Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Stolbach, Secretary