

MINUTES
NEWTON COUNCIL ON AGING
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 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, May 22, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Marian Knapp, Chair.

Commissioners Present: Mary Claffin, Audrey Cooper, Howard Hayward, Marian Knapp, Susan Paley.

Commissioners Absent: Nancy Brown (notified), Louise Hauser (notified).

Advisory Council Members Present: Shirley Farnham, Judy Fischbach, Norman Hartstone, Jo-Edith Heffron Adele Hoffman, Ellen Krasney, Ernest Picard, Joyce Picard, Carol Rose, Dena Salzberg, Carol Ann Shea, Ruth Sherman, Tom Shoemaker, Diane Sostek, Jeanne Stolbach.

Advisory Council Members Absent: Kenneth Chang, Eric Rosenbaum, Holly Gunner (notified), Nancy Scammon (notified).

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

The **Minutes of the April 24, 2012 meeting of the NCOA** were moved, seconded and approved as written.

Chair's/Director's Report. **Marian** acknowledged the excellent presentation of Dr. Richard Parker at our April meeting. It was felt that he presented an excellent framework for understanding our current health care system, especially as it relates to seniors. Strategic Planning Update: the Committee's first draft report has been delayed. Participants who attended the Retreat will receive a draft very shortly which will then be sent to those community members who participated at large. NCOA Members/Participants included Diane, Audrey, Holly, Ernest, Joyce, and Nancy Brown and were joined by Ald. Amy Sangiolo, Lowell Haynes (Newton Planning Dept.), Judy Joffe (Representative from Springwell) and Lauren Walker (Newton Planning Dept.). The process was excellent creating a vision for the future for the Dept. of Senior Services and for the NCOA. Rewriting the mission statement to broaden the scope of the Newton Senior Center is one by-product of the Strategic Planning process. **Jayne** reported on the results of the recent bid process for transportation services wherein Veterans Taxi was awarded the contract. Expanded services to include transportation to City Hall and the Main Library on Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. are now available and in September additional transportation to the Main Library will be available on Sundays. The contract with Veterans Taxi is for 1 year with the option to extend to 2 or 3 years. A small increase in the rider contribution expected from people who pay (from \$1,\$2 or \$3 to \$2,\$3,or \$4 per ride) will be "required" (having previously been "requested"). The exemption process will remain the same at this point; staff is reviewing how to change this process in relation to the increased contributions Jayne reminded members that the NCOA

will have its annual Dinner Meeting on June 19th at 6 p.m. at the NSC (\$10 per person). Audrey and Louise will arrange for food from Comella's as in prior years. Jayne/NSC will provide fruit and a sweet dessert. It was suggested that the two women from SOAR, responsible for our Strategic Planning Program, be invited as guests. Diane Paulson, prior NCOA Advisory Committee Member who completed her term during the year will also be invited as a guest. Jayne announced recent staff changes in the Mayor's Office. Ana Gonzalez (previously, Social Worker at the NSC and then Community Social Worker at City Hall) will now be the Director of Community Engagement. Meghan Kennedy (currently Social Worker at the NSC) will become Community Social Worker based at City Hall effective 6/1/12. The NSC is seeking a BSW or equivalent degree with 1-3 years' experience in the elder network. Kathy Laufer will carry two case loads until the new Social Worker is named. The opening is announced openly after 5 days notice within the Department + 5 days notice within the City.

Membership Report. Ellen presented the slate: Vice President Susan Paley, Treasurer Nancy Brown, Secretary Carol Rose. The Chair is appointed by the Mayor on recommendation by the NCOA. It was noted that residency in Newton is not required for members of the Advisory Board. The Nominating Committee is appointed by the NCOA Chair, election is held in June and offices are assumed in September. Information Packet for NCOA Members: Ellen, Jayne and Marian are finalizing the packet and expect to distribute it at the 6/19 meeting. Note: Appointment Letters are in the Mayor's Office. Ana Gonzalez is now the Staff person who assists the Mayor with notification of appointments.

Liaison Reports. Judy reported that the Newton League of Women Voters sponsored an open meeting on Parking on 5/17/12 at the Main Library. About 120 people attended. Highlights: There is need for more parking in prime locations throughout the City. All parking should NOT cost the same throughout the City. Higher cost parking catalyzes people to more quickly from parking spaces. Some felt that all parking revenue should not go to the City; part should go to the store where the parking meter is located. There is a desire to form local area Councils to decide on how to assign the meter money. (see report addendum) Note: Senior Parking Ticket sales for Newton have increased enormously. Previously, there were about 2,500 stickers provided to seniors; in the 10 months of the current cycle, already 2,500 stickers have been issued.

Old/New Business. Alicia Bowman has been appointed Pedestrian Coordinator, by the Mayor, and plans a walk-through of Newtonville during the first week in June in the afternoon. This process is a follow up on the Transportation Advisory Committee pedestrian related recommendations. Holly and Marian will join Alicia and the Co-Chairs of the Commission on Disabilities. NCOA members Susan and Carol Rose expressed interest in attending the walk-through. Neighborhood Area Councils: Jayne and Marian attended the recent meeting of the Newton Highlands Area council. A traffic light at Allerton Rd. and Centre St. has been proposed (due to concern about the pedestrians crossing to

Crystal Lake). Rodney Barker, previously an Alderman, was interested in this issue and asked for cooperation from the Department of Senior Services/COA in getting the word out about the issue and feedback from the senior population that may be effected by this. Jayne then contacted Jeanne Strickland at Newton Community Develop Foundation, located near the site to connect her with Mr. Barker. Various neighborhoods in Newton are interested in establishing individual Area Councils, e.g., Newton Upper Falls and Waban. Jayne and Marian would like to recruit Liaisons from the NCOA to such Councils throughout the Newton villages. FYI, village14.com is a blog about Newton villages and what's happening in Newton. One of Ana Gonzalez's responsibilities is to work with Area Councils. Susan suggests that the NCOA should meet with her to cooperate on this effort. Area Councils are part of City government; ultimately elected by residents in the determined area. Marian plans to attend the Upper Falls Area Council meeting on 6/21. The Newton Dept. of Senior Services will have a table of information at the Newton Highlands Village Day on 6/10, 12-5 p.m. Nonantum also plans to do its 1st Village Day soon. The Newton Health Dept. currently has the Shingles Vaccine, primarily available for people over 60 years of age. Note: It is against the law to dispose of used syringes in the trash. There are special containers for disposing of sharp materials, such as syringes. The City may provide them to people to take home from the NSC. Diane applauded the recent MFA Guided Tour for the Art in Bloom exhibit, which Ruth had arranged. Diane, Ruth and Ruth's husband (who took photographs) visited with the group. The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held on May 23rd (tomorrow) at 7:30 a.m. The Annual Breakfast as of 5/23 will be a Memorial Breakfast honoring our Late Mayor Theodore Mann, who established the Breakfast of "brotherhood" many years ago.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Next Meeting—Dinner on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the Newton Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Stolbach, Secretary