

## Newton Council on Aging Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2012

Newton Senior Center

345 Walnut St Newtonville, MA 02460

Present: Eric Rosenbaum(AB), Carol Rose (AB), Joyce Picard (AB), Ernest Picard(AB) , Ruth Sherman(AB) , Norman Hartstone (AB) , Tom Shoemaker (AB), Nancy Scammon (AB), Susan Paley (COA), Judy Fischbach (AB) , Dena Salzberg (AB), Diane Sostek (AB), Holly Gunner (AB), Marian Knapp (COA), Jayne Colino (Staff)

Notified: Audrey Cooper (AB), Nancy Brown (COA), Shirley Farnham (AB), Kenneth Chang (AB), Howard Hayward (COA), Adele Hoffman (AB), Jeanne Stolbach (AB), Ellen Krasney (AB), Mary Claflin (AB), Louise Hauser (AB), Carol Ann Shea (AB)

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by M. Knapp who welcomed everyone. Minutes were approved from the 6/19/12 meeting and people introduced themselves.

### I. Director's report:

- A. New Outreach Worker: Christie Rexford started at the end of June. She is also certified as a Shine counselor which although won't be called upon this set of skills may be useful.
- B. Program Coordinator: The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of interviews for the Program Coordinator position will be on Friday, 9/14. Current staff is working hard to keep programming going and expect greatly expanded programming once a new person is hired. Jayne Colino and Alice Bailey have been doing the calendar and newsletter, and greatly appreciate all the work involved. The interviews have given Jayne some great ideas for future programs including: a cafe and participation through YouTube, etc.

### II. Council/Advisory Board Member Reports:

#### A. Housing:

1. M. Knapp reported a personal decision to sell her house and move into a condominium. She discovered how difficult it is to remain in Newton if you do not qualify for "affordable" and simply need reasonably priced housing.
2. J. Picard circulated copies of her op ed article for the Newton TAB on the topic of "reasonable housing".
3. D. Sostek notified the group of an upcoming meeting in the aldermen's chambers to discuss housing with the Fair Housing Committee to review the Fair Housing laws. The principle component in affordable housing is that it is mandated by the state and follows a formula. Susan Paley and Kathy Laufer are on the Fair Housing Committee.
4. J. Picard mentioned that Aquinas College buildings may be sold to developers for housing. There was an overall discussion about the League of Women Voters holding discussions on various topics, how they choose the topics and about techniques the LWV utilize to get things accomplished.

### III. Strategic Plan - Fall Strategies:

- A. The SOAR consultants for the NDSS Strategic Plan provided feedback on the draft to make

it more comprehensive, including a stronger introduction. Our Strategic Plan and Goals must be used as a compass for our future work.

- B. Members of the NCOA provided some NDSS history as background information. There used to be 3 senior centers, and, at one time, a COA board and a Senior Center board which eventually merged. The Strategic Plan will fold together the work of the Department of Senior Services, NCOA, and the Newton Senior Citizens Fund, so that there is mutual support for our work. Members brainstormed the following ideas regarding an action plan:
- In looking for an action plan, we should brainstorm, prioritize, etc.
  - We should all consider how we should look in the future.
  - Brainstorm, prioritize, and carry on conversations to allow ideas to surface.
  - Strategic Plan is for 3 years with constant reflection on goals and action steps always keeping our vision goal in mind.
  - The League of Women Voters has a one year action plan on any issue. It works through consensus. It would be good to understand the LWV process to determine if it might be useful for us. LWV are everywhere, do research, findings are fact-based.
  - Try to get census data from the city and try to put a “seniors” question(s) on the next Newton census survey. J. Picard had attempted this in the past and found it not easy.
  - We need to assess needs from broad to specific
  - Financial sustainability comes later. Identify population needs (great resources are the retirement centers at BC and Brandeis). A couple of profiles could emerge from the census reports.
  - Everyone on the advisory board should be part of something in the city and raise awareness of senior needs by the fact that we are in so many places.
- C. Action step ideas for strategic plan for next meeting. **Please review for next meeting.**
- D. J. Colino commended M. Claflin for all the work she did to compile historic materials from 1977. This will be important information for the SP and historic documentation.

#### IV. Announcements:

- a. Membership packets: If you missed the dinner in June get your packet from Jayne.
- b. Senior Citizen Fund: Letter getting written, possibly about transportation.
- c. Upper Falls Area Council is being attended and Jayne has been invited to present at the Lower Falls Area Council
- d. Newtonville Day- 9/29 from 10:00 a.m. To 6 p.m.
- e. Bike/Walk Newton kickoff- 9/29
- f. Medicare open enrollment 10/15-12/7
- g. Mayor's office needed phone coverage. The Department of Senior Services sent four volunteers.
- h. Mayor Warren asked to collaborate with NDSS to inform people about scams. Presentation is scheduled to happen at beginning of October at the Senior Center
- i. Flu clinic @ American Legion Post coming up.
- j. Flu clinic for over 60 @ senior center 10/17 1:30-3:30.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**Next meeting of Executive Committee is Thursday 10/11 at 3:45 at the SC.**  
(Executive Committee Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 3:45 – 5:00)

**Next meeting of the Council on Aging and Advisory Board is Tuesday 10/23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.**(Council on Aging and Advisory Board Meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Month at 7:30 p.m. Schedule may change if needed. )

Meeting Minutes Submitted by Carol Rose