

Newton Council on Aging/Advisory Board Meeting - Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 23rd 2012 - 7:30 p.m.  
Newton Senior Center  
345 Walnut St, Newtonville, MA 02460

Present: Nancy Brown, Mary Claflin, Audrey Cooper, Shirely Farnham, Judy Fischbach, Holly Gunner, Rev. Howard Heywood, Jo-Edith Heffron, Adele Hoffman, Marian Knapp, Ellen Krasney, Joyce Picard, Ernest Picard, Carol Rose, Dena Salzberg, Nancy Scammon, Carol Ann Shea, Ruth Sherman, Diane Sostek, Marian Knapp, Jayne Colino(staff)

Notified: Tom Shoemaker, Susan Paley, Eric Rosenbaum, Louis Hauser, Jeanne Stolbach

Absent: Kenneth Chang, Norman Hartstone,

The meeting was called to order by M. Knapp at 7:35 p.m. People were welcomed. There was a correction to the for 6/12/12 meeting minutes. Jo-Edith Heffron's absence was excused at the las meeting. Minutes were corrected and approved.

I. Chair's/Director's Report:

A. Program Coordinator position was upgraded and a new round of interviewing began.

B. Election Day

1. Senior Center will be a voting site
2. There will be transportation to all polling sites this year.
3. All activities in the Newton Senior Center will not run on election day.
4. The shop will be open for business.

C. The schedule of COA/AB meetings for 2012-2013 was reviewed and revised. Attached.

1. **The 12/25 meeting was changed to 12/18, the 3/26 meeting was changed to 3/19 and the 6/25 meeting was changed to 6/18.**

II. Guidelines/roles/strategic planning discussion

A. Comments

1. Guidelines for acting on Strategic Planning Goals has proven to be difficult and has held up strategic planning. The issues related to how we can stay within governmental regulations and guidelines, and be active advocates for Seniors.
  - This issue has emerged in several practical ways, for example, can we as a group or individual members advocate for Seniors in the override.
  - Problems are 1) the issue is political and it is not the role of the COA to be political, and 2) that everyone does not agree on the issue.
  - COA would have to vote and reach consensus on an issue in order to advocate for or against it.
  - It was noted that this kind of political stance is not in our mission.
  - Examples:
    - At least one COA member has had to resign from a committee because of potential conflict. Clarification is needed on conflict of interest and the number and types of committees people can serve on.
    - In the past, when developers requested a letter of support from the COA, a general, non-political letter was sent.
    - Action steps for a senior playground got stuck in clarity of roles.

- The Human Rights Commission looks at how issues are prioritized. (Darfur vs a local issue)
- Removing a parking spot for a crosswalk in Newtonville for pedestrian safety could potential conflict with business-friendly neighborhoods.

**B. Action:**

1. M. Knapp asked for volunteers to form an informal group to discuss and investigate regulation, and suggest a way to proceed.
2. H. Gunner, S.Farnham, H. Haywood, J. Picard, J.Fischbach, S. Paley, and M. Knapp will hold a meeting.

III. Membership Report: None

IV. Senior Citizens Fund Report: Annual Fundraising letter will go out around Thanksgiving.

V. Legislative Report: None

VI. Liaison Reports:

- A. Identifying existing neighborhood/area groups: Jo-Edith created a list and tried to connect with each of them to determine what they're doing. Report attached.
- B. Transportation Advisory Group (TAG): Holly would like 15 minutes of the next meeting for an in-depth report.
- C. Nonantum is forming an Area Council.
- D. Marian and Jayne presented at the Lower Falls Neighborhood Improvement Council.

VII. Old/New Business:

- A. Athletes Serving Community project (ASC) is now an acronym for All Students Care.
- B. Senior Social, at Newton North on April 27, 2013. It will include tours of the school and be a fundraiser for a mutually agreed upon community need.
- C. Dinner will be served at the SC on Thanksgiving for 55, sponsored by Whole Foods.
- D. November is Alzheimer's Awareness and Caregiver Appreciation month. A concert featuring an a capella older female group will be held on 11/29 sponsored by Caregiver Homes and Hospice of the Good Shepard.
- E. N. Scammon reported 2<sup>nd</sup> annual senior bike ride was held with 20 participants.
- F. J. Picard requested feedback on her article in the Newton Tab about reasonably priced housing in Newton. The message is to help seniors stay in Newton

Adjournment: 9:15 p.m.

**Next COA Executive Committee meeting: Thursday, November 8th, 2012 3:45.**

**Next COA/AB meeting, Tuesday November 27, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

Submitted by Carol Rose  
Secretary