

Minutes  
Council on Aging and Advisory Board Meeting  
Tuesday September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020  
7:30 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:** Dov Bard, Sandra Davidow, Jayne Colino (staff), Mary Glendon, Tyrone Hooks, Naomi Krasner, Ena Lorant, Norm Meltz, Donna Murphy, Julie Norstrand, John Pelletier, Joyce Picard, Sue Rasala, Eric Rosenbaum, Nancy Scammon, Allison Sharma, Gordon Szerlip, Susan Schlesinger, Laura Shaw, Tom Shoemaker,

**Absent:** Beth Dugan, Adele Hoffman, Jo-Edith Heffron, Maria Meyer, Lisa Samelson,

**Guests:** Alice Ingerson, Susan Al, Elise Selinger, Julia Malakie, Joel Bergman, Bea Goldsmith, Fred Lewis, Debbi Cutler, Susan Albright, Sharon Brooks, Melissa Gagnon, Joseph Lank, Lizbeth Heyer, Dan Shaw, Joan Belle Isle

**1. Meeting called to order by Chair, Donna Murphy.**

- Donna provided a brief Membership Update about who has left the COA/AB, who has moved from AB to COA and openings on AB. There are a few people who are visiting our meeting and considering application for membership. Donna made a request for a Secretary. Tyrone Hooks volunteered. The city is now using a new transcription service, called Otter than can be used as captioning during a meeting. We hope it will help with minute taking about meetings.
- Donna acknowledges the losses that have affected our members since we last met; Jo-Edith Heffron's Husband and the death of Ernest Picard. In this difficult time Donna encourages all of to keep expressing our sympathy for ourselves and others.....keep reaching out to and talking to one another.

**2. NewCAL Update by Josh Morse and Alex Valcarce from the Public Buildings Department.**

- Josh reviewed the site selection process that lead the NewCAL Working Group to recommend the current senior center site to the Mayor.
- Next steps include presenting to Programs and Services and Public Facilities Committees of the City Council. Upcoming meeting with the Newton Historical Commission to discuss the permit to demolish the current senior center building. Josh explained the fact that the application needed to be filed even if we are only renovating and adding on to the building. The most the NHC could delay the project is 18 months. There is a possibility of that being shorter if there is consensus about how "preservation" of any or all of the building would be approached.
- Feasibility study of the site will continue during this time and to the extent that design could proceed it will. Feasibility will help to determine if there are any compromises to the program that would need to be made, if any: changes to parking, more or less green space, three stories -vs- four stories. There are ways to be creative to

addresses any compromises. The COA will be involved in this process.

There will need to be further consensus building.

- There was a request from the membership to please remain focused on the need for housing, if possible, in this project.

3. **2Life Communities presentation on their Opus model of housing.** See 2Life Communities website <https://2lifetogether.org/>  
Elise Selinger, Real Estate Innovation Manager and Lizbeth Heyer, Chief of Real Estate and Innovation shared information on 2Life's plans to build an Opus Community on the campus of Coleman House. Their plan is to link Coleman House with the new building. They are pursuing permitting with the city. They we will keep the COA informed on the timeline and need for input from the community. They are willing to come back to the COA throughout the process.

#### 4. General Updates

- There was general conversation about different observations of mask wearing in public and how to best ask people to wear them without being confrontational.
- Joyce Picard took this opportunity to thank everyone who reached out and sent good thoughts her way during Ernest's illness and passing.
- Jayne provided an update on the hiring process for the Outreach and Engagement Coordinator's position that is now full time.
- Jayne gave an update on the ongoing services being provided during covid: food shopping, food pantry delivery, commodity food distribution, prescription pick-ups, virtual programming.
- A reminder of the Walk to End Alzheimer's
- Plans for a drive thru/delivery Thanksgiving dinner event is being organized with financial support from the Village Bank.
- Plans for October (Boomer Project) and November (EOEA Sec. Elizabeth Chen is tentatively scheduled) meetings were introduced.
- Donna gave a brief explanation of a program focusing on mental health that is being planned.

Meeting adjourned 9:17 p.m.