

COUNCIL ON AGING—OCTOBER 25, 2022

Present: Joan Belle Isle, Sandra Davidow, Mary Glendon, Naomi Krasner, Julie Norstrand, John Pelletier, Robert Pierson, Sue Rasala, Eric Rosenbaum, Nancy Scammon, Susan Schlesinger, Laura Shaw, Dan Shaw

Absent: Ena Lorant, Allison Sharma, Tom Shoemaker

Staff: Jayne Colino, Liz O'Connell

Call to Order/Review/Vote on Minutes

Joan Belle Isle called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM. The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Introductions

Joan Belle Isle introduced guests and staff. Our presenting speaker will be Elise Selinger, Real Estate Innovation Manager, 2Life Communities.

Chair/Director Welcome

Jayne Colino is retiring, as announced. Her position has been posted on the city website and on the Massachusetts Council on Aging website. There will be a hiring committee or two, that would be, a community committee and a staff committee. Plans are uncertain still. Joan Belle Isle is on the community committee. COA members can give Joan their thoughts, questions, concerns. The hiring process will be well-guided, with Human Resources involvement at Jayne's (the Director's) level. Requirements include: Master's degree preferred; Bachelor's degree required and/or 3-5 years of experience in a related network. There is no Newton residency requirement.

There is an unfilled position for a Deputy Director in place. The new Director will hire the Deputy.

2Life Communities Presentation by Elise Selinger, Real Estate Innovation Manager

Presentation attached to email.

2Life Communities are for those 55 years of age or older. The organization is directed primarily at low income to low/middle income. This presentation was a tribute to Joyce Picard who recently passed.

Joyce advocated for housing for the “missing middle;” this presentation focuses on resources for that group.

Three properties with openings upcoming were reviewed:

- Golda Meir House
In Auburndale, this facility will be adding 68 new apartments with multiple tiers of affordability
- J.J. Carroll Apartments
In Brighton, this redeveloped facility will open this fall with 142 apartments, all dedicated to low and extremely low-income residents. It will have an onsite PACE Center. (PACE – Program for the All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly)
- Opus Communities
The Opus Communities are a new model designed for the middle market. The first facility will be connected to the Coleman House in Newton, which is also a 2Life community, and located on the JCC campus. The facility will have 174 apartments. They are in the research and design phase and could break ground in spring 2023, with an opening in summer 2025.

There are at least two 2Life staff members at each facility 24/7. The communal spaces are great. 2Life has third party healthcare resources with coordinating care.

The Brown Family House in Coolidge Corner, also a 2Life Community, has 62 mixed lower income apartments and is fully occupied with a long waiting list.

2Life has a low-level relationship with Hebrew Senior Life. They are aligned in goals and mission and are thought partners. 2Life also leases space to them.

The 2Life Communities website is <https://2lifecommunities.org>

NewCAL and Interim Space

COA members were encouraged to tune into upcoming NewCAL meetings. Things are still being refined, e.g., stairwells and handrails.

The Senior Center on Walnut Street will be closing at the end of day on November 9. Moving day is November 14. All but two programs have been re-settled – ceramics and the Swing Band, although it looks like the Swing Band will be at City Hall. Ilana kept spaces open at the Hyde Center in case re-located programs need to re-locate again.

There will be a celebration at the Senior Center on Monday, November 7, from 1-3pm, to say farewell to the building and to Jayne.

We are creating signage for our new temporary location, calling it: The Newton Senior Center in the Highlands

Updates

Proposed Override

The proposed Proposition 2-1/2 override was announced by Mayor Fuller last week. There will be a special election in March 2023. The proposed override includes \$500K for an annual increase to the Senior Services budget for operations. The FY2023 Senior Services budget is approximately \$873K, so the addition of \$500K marks a huge step forward for Senior Services!

COA members were encouraged to advocate for the passage of the override. The additional funding is crucial to running NewCAL for extended hours and increasing programming. The city's website contains a lot of great information about the override, including community meetings and more. Each director/commissioner of a department receiving funding will decide how to use it. In general, Senior Center uses will be for increases in staffing, more programs, transportation (NewMo), and other operating needs.

Seniors are the largest and fastest growing population in the City of Newton. Newton has had two overrides in the last 20 years; for comparison, Needham has had 16 overrides in the last 20 years.

Three overrides are being considered, each to be voted on separately, and all totaling \$4.5 million. Two override votes are for school construction; the third is for Senior Services, Parks, Fields, Playgrounds, trees, roads, sidewalks, sustainability and Schools Departments operating budgets.

Accessory Apartments Ordinance

The detached Accessory Apartment (or Dwelling) Units ordinance was passed by the City Council, which allows for a 750 sq. ft. footprint for an Accessory Apartment by right, with a total of 900 sq. ft. Only a permit will be needed to build such units, not a special permit.

Transportation

Phase II of NewMo has been funded, which will expand the service to some surrounding towns. The MBTA will be releasing maps of the new bus routes; more news is forthcoming. Street and sidewalk lighting is in the proposed city tax override.

Springwell – HDM relocation in Newton

The Home Delivered Meals (HDM) staging location will be moving from the tent at 345 Walnut to the Hut in Newton Center until NewCAL is built. Laura Shaw has asked for a one-year extension of her Springwell board term to assist with the integration of Baypath and Springwell. Naomi Krasner has asked for two years. It was noted that many Springwell services are income-based. Information and Referral is open to all.

Adele Hoffman Memorial Bench

Adele's estate funded a memorial bench in Newton Center dedicated to Adele with an invitation to "get ice cream and sit and remember." Sue and Richard Rasala did just that before the weather became too cold for ice cream!

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 PM. John Pelletier made the motion; Sandra Davidow seconded.