

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
February 11,2010
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos, Roma Jean Brown, Jim Dolan, Dan Goldberg, Risa Greendlinger, Andrea Rae, Colleen Schaller, Derrek Schulman, Nina Silverstein, Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Scott Brightman
Staff: Jamie Brenner Gutner, Sherry Jackson
Convener: 7:00 p.m. - Stephen Palmer Senior Center

DISCUSSION:

- I. Call To Order - 7:05 p.m. - Susanne Hughes**
S. Hughes, Chair, called the February 12, 2010 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**
Motion by Colleen Schaller that the Board vote to approve the January 14, 2010 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended.
Second by Roma Jean Brown. Unanimously approved.
- III. Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**
- A. S. Hughes reported that she and J. Brenner Gutner attended the Finance Committee Budget Review meeting on January 25, 2010. S. Hughes presented an update and summarized the FY11 Council on Aging budget noting that budget would remain level funded. S. Hughes spoke briefly about the transportation program, noting that in this fiscal year, the program is entirely dependent on donations and that the cost to run the transportation program is approximately \$40,000 per year. S. Hughes also spoke briefly about volunteerism, specifically addressing the in-kind services that the Council on Aging receives from volunteers, which translate to well over \$350K worth of service to the town.
 - B. L. Camberg submitted an update on how the reaccreditation process is progressing. L. Camberg stated that most of the committees are in place and that she has

sent a memo to the staff indicating that committee liaisons would be contacting them for information. L. Camberg passed out some information related to the last reaccreditation. L. Camberg stated that committee work should be completed sometime this Spring.

- C. L. Camberg thanked the COA Board for their contribution to the reaccreditation process. N. Silverstein stated that it is exciting to have Town boards and committees engaged in this process.

IV. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner:

J. Brenner Gutner responded to R. J. Brown on filling vacancies. J. Brenner Gutner stated that she has reviewed applications, and noted that Elizabeth Dennis, Human Resources Director, has been very helpful to her in light of the fact that the Town Hall offices are moving.

J. Brenner Gutner also responded to N. Silverstein's inquiry on how the Town Hall move is affecting the Council on Aging. J. Brenner Gutner stated there has not been a great deal of change for our department.

D. Goldberg asked about the efforts to communicate to the community about building issues, to include farming out programs.

S. Brightman responded that he has written a letter to the editor. S. Brightman stated that it is important to inform the community on some of the issues the Senior Center faces.

R. Greendlinger stated that she has included in the information she forwarded the name of a Boston Globe writer that writes a column on senior issues, as well as other potentially helpful contacts.

D. Goldberg noted that Natick passed a Senior Center override before they took up the issues of the schools.

J. Brenner Gutner stated that N. Silverstein sent information to her on the Beverly Foundation. N. Silverstein described the Foundation and their

focus for FY10. N. Silverstein stated that \$150K will be given this year. N. Silverstein stated that this year's application period is opened until February 26, 2010. N. Silverstein stated that last year the Foundation received 400 applications nationwide.

J. Brenner Gutner stated that she was invited to attend the Regional Directors' Meeting for SHINE. J. Brenner Gutner stated that the region is getting some additional money and that we are anticipating an increase in our funding. J. Brenner Gutner stated that it was great to see how well respected the SHINE Program from this region is.

S. Hughes stated that she feels badly for those persons who don't have the benefit of the services the SHINE program offers.

S. Hughes proposed that the COA Board engage in QPR Suicide Prevention Training an hour before its regular meeting. After a general discussion the COA Board agreed to receive the training at the June meeting.

V. Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. Report - Roma Jean Brown:

R.J. Brown reported on an Intergenerational Project with the Friends and Needham School students. R. J. Brown stated that people came to the Stephen Palmer Center to put together care packages to send to our troops. R. J. Brown stated that the Friends donated the money to mail the care packages. R.J. Brown reported that the quantity of advertisements for the Compass needs to improve. R. J. Brown stated that the Friends need costume jewelry for the boutique and encouraged COA members to donate.

R. Greendlinger stated that she would email R.J. Brown names of businesses that might be willing to donate to the Friends.

VI.

Committee Updates:

1. Senior Center Exploratory Committee -

C. Schaller

C. Schaller reported that the PPBC (Permanent Public Building Committee) received eight proposals for the Senior Center Feasibility Study and has chosen four firms to interview. The interviews will take place on Tuesday, February 16th at the Needham High School Media Center. The firms to be interviewed are Graham/Meus Inc. Architects, Bargmann Hendrie & Archetype, Court Street Architects, Inc., and Catlin Architecture.

2. Springwell - M. E. Weadock

M. E. Weadock reported that Healthy Aging Programs would begin again in the spring at the Needham Housing Authority and other locations. M. E. Weadock reported that managed intake continues and that the Protective Service program is grossly under funded.

R. Greendlinger stated that she has an article on elder abuse that she would like to share with Board Members and would get a copy to them.

J. Brenner Gutner stated that the COA Board should nominate a Board Member to fill the vacancy on the Advisory Committee. The position had been filled by Helen Hicks.

J. Brenner Gutner stated that the Advisory Committee meets on Monday's every other month.

VII. Visibility Committee

No Report.

VIII. Board Member Update:

R. Greendlinger stated that her daughter and the Irish Step Dancers would be performing throughout Needham, Natick and Newton at various Senior Centers.

D. Goldberg stated that the response to the earthquake in Haiti by the local nursing homes and Hospice facilities has been phenomenal.

Adjourn (8:00 p.m.)

A motion was made to adjourn the February 11, 2010 Council on Aging Board Meeting. It was unanimously approved.