

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
September 16, 2010
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos, Colleen Schaller, Andrea Rae, Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Scott Brightman, Roma Jean Brown, Dan Goldberg, Risa Greendlinger

NOT PRESENT: James Dolan

STAFF: Jamie Brenner Gutner, Sherry Jackson

GUEST: Denise Garlick, Co-Chair, SCEC

CONVENE: 6:00 p.m. - Stephen Palmer Senior Center

DISCUSSION:

- I. **Call To Order - 6:00 p.m. - Susanne Hughes**
Susanne Hughes, Chair, called the September 16, 2010 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. **Approve Minutes:**
Motion by Mary Elizabeth Weadock that the Board vote to approve the June 10, 2010, and August 12, 2010 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. Second by Roma Jean Brown. Unanimously approved.
- III. **Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**
~~S. Hughes reported that she and J. Brenner Gutner~~ have been invited to meet with the Finance Committee on September 29, 2010 to discuss issues related to a new Senior Center for the purpose of helping the Finance Committee further understand some of the space issues and needs. S. Hughes stated that she would report on why 20K sq. ft. is so important. Discussion continued on programming needs relative to space needs. S. Hughes stated that she really appreciates the opportunity to meet with the Finance Committee.

S. Hughes reported that a request has been made to address the matter of changing the name of our Division from Diversified Community Social Services (DCSS) to Human Services. This would continue to encompass the departments in this Division to include the Needham Council on Aging, Youth Services and Veterans Services. The current division name seems to confuse people looking for our departments.

A motion was made by D. Goldberg to approve the name change from Diversified Community Social Services (DCSS) to Human Services Seconded by C. Schaller. Unanimous vote.

S. Brightman asked about programming in relationship to a potential new space.

R. Jean Brown responded by stating that it is important that the space be large enough to be able to serve more people and more programs.

R. Jean Brown presented examples of how limited space constricts programming and service delivery. Discussion continued on space usage. Discussion continued with a few housekeeping items. S. Hughes noted that J. Brenner Gutner would not be at the October 14th COA Board meeting.

S. Hughes opened discussion on moving the COA Board meeting time from 7pm to an earlier time. S. Hughes asked the Board consider this matter.

A motion was made by C. deLemos to change the COA Board meeting time from 7:00pm to 6:30pm. Seconded by C. Schaller. Unanimous vote.

S. Hughes opened discussion on changing the date of the November COA Board meeting because it is scheduled on Veteran's Day, November 11th. After a general discussion, Board consensus was that the November COA Board meeting would be held on, Thursday, November 4, 2010.

S. Hughes opened discussion on the matter of the strategic planning process. The Board consensus is to wait until after the Senior Center Reaccreditation Report is done before beginning to address this matter again.

IV.

Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner

J. Brenner Gutner responded to C. deLemos' question about Maureen Doherty who is the new Trip Coordinator for the Friends of the Needham Elderly Inc. (FONE) J. Brenner Gutner stated that she would ask the FONE chairs to accompany her to a Board Meeting in the future. Carol deLemos asked for

clarification on the information provided in the social service section related to preparing for abatements this summer. J. Brenner Gutner stated that she would ask LaTanya Steele to clarify and forward the information to the Board Members. S. Hughes asked for clarification on a reference made in the report to auditing data input on MySeniorCenter. J. Brenner Gutner responded by explaining that we need to ensure that the information we are trying to capture is actually being captured. It is also important to evaluate if MySeniorCenter capabilities are in concert with our departmental needs and concerns. She feels it would be helpful and more efficient to evaluate this throughout the year.

V. **Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. Report - R. J. Brown**

R. J. Brown reported that Friends website is up and running. Questions were raised about the possibility of having a link on the Town Web Site to this site. J. Brenner Gutner stated that she would look into this. R. J. Brown also reported that the Friends would be asking for donations for a new van and also that the memberships drive would begin in January.

VI. **Committee Updates**

1. **Visibility Committee - A. Rae**

A. Rae reported on damage to the display board. A. Rae also stated that she may try to recreate the display.

2. **Senior Center Exploratory Committee - C. Schaller**

C. Schaller expressed that the COA Board should maintain their opinions regarding sites that they feel would best suite the evolving nature on how best to serve older adults as the population changes.

The question was asked if the Council on Aging Board felt that there was any site under consideration by the SCEC that they would not want to support. There was no vote taken but there was unanimous consent by Board Members present that the Emery Grover Site was not a site they could support.

Adjourn (7:10 p.m.)

A motion was made by A. Rae and seconded by
C. Schaller to adjourn the September 16,
2010 Council on Aging Board meeting. It was
unanimously approved.