

**NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**October 14,2010**  
**MINUTES**

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

**NOT PRESENT:**   **James Dolan, Roma Jean Brown, Jamie Brenner Gutner**

**STAFF:**             **Sherry Jackson**

**GUEST:**            **Peter Pingitore, Vice Chairman, Needham Housing Authority**

**CONVENE:**         **6:35 p.m. - Stephen Palmer Senior Center**

**DISCUSSION:**

- I.        Call To Order - 6:35 p.m. - Susanne Hughes**  
Susanne Hughes, Chair, called the September 16, 2010 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II.       Approve Minutes:**  
Motion by Colleen Schaller that the Board vote to approve the September 16, 2010 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended.  
Second by Mary Elizabeth Weadock. Unanimously approved.
- III.      Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**  
A. S. Hughes deferred her report to allow Peter Pingitore, Vice-Chairman of the Needham Housing Authority (NHA) Board of Commissioners to present an initiative by his Board to update their Five Year Plan. Mr. Pingitore stated that the NHA Board has scheduled meetings with stakeholders to present aspirational goals and gather information. Mr. Pingitore briefly summarized the NHA Board of Commissioner's goals for its existing facilities as well as redevelopment plans. The COA Board expressed an interest in Mr. Pingitores' presentation and presented their questions and concerns. Mr. Pingitore summarized comments of the COA Board and stated that he would follow-up and report back to the COA

- Board after the NHA Board's retreat.
- B. S. Hughes presented her report, which included an update on the Finance Committee meeting that she and J. Brenner Gutner attended. S. Hughes reported that the Finance Committee asked why the COA Board was opposed to the Emery Grover Building. They also had questions about financing and also for information on peak usage of Centers. SCEC members C. deLemos, M. E. Weadock and C. Schaller also attended a Finance Committee meeting on 10/13/10. C. Schaller presented a brief update on this meeting. Discussion continued on design cost, construction cost, size and scope.
  - C. S. Hughes opened discussion on the vote taken by the COA Board on October 12 supporting the recommendations of the SCEC and the importance of the COA Board's involvement in the continued quest for a new Senior Center. S. Hughes stated that it would be important to communicate to various groups, proponents and opponents, regarding the Board support for the site at the MBTA lot and the reasons behind selecting this site. Board members must also be informed about why other sites were not chosen. Carol, Mary Elizabeth and Colleen are preparing a letter for the newspaper, and a meeting with Seniors who support Green's Field, discussing the points that led to the decision choosing the MBTA lot for the Senior Center. Discussion continued on the upcoming Special Town Meeting and communicating to citizens the facts behind the vote. Board members agreed to contact Town Meeting members in their precincts asking for support for the feasibility and design funding being requested at the Special Town Meeting.
  - D. M. E. Weadock stated that the COA Board can and should gather information about Senior Center needs and site selection to pass on to the FRIENDS. Discussion continued on fundraising efforts that wouldn't pose a conflict of interest for Board members. Fundraising for a Senior Center will be

handled by the Friends of the Needham Elderly and will not be a Board function. Discussion continued on programming and Center usage.

- E. S. Hughes presented an update on potential candidates that have expressed an interest in filling the vacant COA Board position.

**IV. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner**

Great report, as expressed by the COA Board. R. Greendlinger asked how the reaccreditation process was progressing. M.E. Weadock responded that all information for the reaccreditation will be ready by the end of the month. S. Jackson shared briefly information about her presentation at the MCOA Conference on two intergenerational programs: The Senior-to-Senior Program and Sage and Seekers. S. Jackson stated that J. Brenner Gutner participated in a presentation at MCOA by the Needham Coalition for Suicide Prevention on QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer).

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

No Report.

**VI. Committee Updates**

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

A. Rae reported that after the completion of Council on Aging Reaccreditation, the Visibility Committee would be more active especially around publicity for a new Senior Center.

**2. Springwell - M. E. Weadock**

M. E. Weadock reported on the Springwell grant in the amount of \$ 120K over two years that will address mental health issues for seniors.

**3. Nominating Committee**

A motion was made by A. Rae that S. Hughes and C. deLemos continue in their position on the Council on Aging Board. Second by C. Schaller. It was unanimously approved

Adjourn (8:13 p.m.)

A motion was made by D. Goldberg and seconded by C. Schaller to adjourn the October 14, 2010 Council on Aging Board meeting. It was unanimously approved.