

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
September 12, 2013
MINUTES

PRESENT: Carol deLemos, Colleen Schaller, Susanne Hughes, Scott Brightman,
Ed Cosgrove, Phyllis Fanger, Eilene Kleiman, Andrea Rae,
Lianne Relich, Mary Elizabeth Weadock
NOT PRESENT: Dan Goldberg, Roma Jean Brown
STAFF: Jamie Brenner Gutner
CONVENE: 6:00 p.m. - Stephen Palmer Senior Center

Discussion:

- I. Call To Order - 6:07 p.m. - Carol deLemos and C. Schaller Co-Chairs**
Carol deLemos, Co-Chair, called the September 12, 2013 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**
S. Hughes made a motion that the Board vote to approve the June 13, 2013 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended. Lianne Relich seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.
- III. Chairperson's Report - C. deLemos & C. Schaller**
C. deLemos led the COA Board in a discussion on COA representation at the 2013 Needham Business Association's Annual Harvest Fair and Souper Bowl on Saturday, October 5th from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. A general discussion ensued. The consensus of the COA Board is that this would be a great opportunity to have a visual display of the new Senior Center as well as information on when it will open. C. Schaller, C. deLemos, P. Fanger, E. Cosgrove and L. Kleiman stated that they will be available to cover the COA table. C. deLemos will organize the group via email regarding this event.

C. deLemos asked for the COA Board's consideration to convene an Executive Committee of three or five Board Members. A general discussion ensued.

S. Hughes moved that the Board vote to convene an Executive Committee of five: C. Schaller, C. deLemos, S. Hughes, E. Cosgrove, and A. Rae. E. Cosgrove seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.

C. deLemos informed the Board that she had received information from the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds and had been contacted by William O'Donnell, Register of Deeds regarding the Massachusetts Homestead Act. A brief discussion ensued on the Homestead Act, a law that protects homeowners from creditors, and how elderly/disabled persons are protected under this statute.
- IV. Executive Director Report - J. Brenner Gutner**
The Board expressed their appreciation for the Executive Director's report. A. Rae noted that she was pleased to see the amount of youth participation. C. Schaller spoke briefly on her attendance at the Permanent Public Building Committee (PPBC) meetings.

J. Brenner Gutner spoke about the process of hiring a new Assistant Executive Director. J. Brenner Gutner stated that 12 candidates applied for the position and five were invited in for interviews. J. Brenner Gutner went on to say that Assistant Town Manager Christopher Coleman, and Needham Youth Commission Director Jon Mattleman participated in the process. Two internal candidates and three external candidates were interviewed. J. Brenner Gutner stated that after an extensive process, a recommendation was submitted to Town Manager, Kate Fitzpatrick, choosing LaTanya Steele as the candidate unanimously selected. J. Brenner Gutner stated that Ms. Steele was offered the position and accepted.

The COA Board went on to discuss preliminary plans for the fitness area of the new Center. J. Brenner Gutner responded to COA Board member's questions regarding community use of space at the new Senior Center. J. Brenner Gutner stated that the goals and mission of the Senior Center and the Division have not changed. The focus will continue to be aging service issues, programs and services and promoting health and wellness. Policies are being drafted.

V. Friends of the Needham Elderly (F.O.N.E), Inc. Report - J. Brenner Gutner

J. Brenner Gutner stated that R. J. Brown is recuperating and doing well. Nothing major to report.

VI. Springwell Report - M. E. Weadock

M. E. Weadock stated that the Springwell Board did not meet in August. M. E. Weadock added that the Director, Ruth Beckerman-Rodau is doing a great job.

VII. Committee Reports

Senior Center Update - C. Schaller, J. Brenner Gutner
C. Schaller and J. Brenner Gutner spoke about their conversations with the architect and the PPBC members regarding construction items. C. Schaller stated that project should be completed by the end of the month, adding that a contingency fund balance is still in place.

Action Plan Subcommittee - E. Kleiman, L. Relich

No Report

Event Committee - M. E. Weadock, L. Relich

Senior Center Handbook Committee - E. Cosgrove, C. deLemos, E. Kleiman, A. Rae

No Report

VIII. Board Member Update

C. Schaller is going to France in October.
M. E. Weadock is expecting her first grandchild.

A. Rae made a motion to adjourn the September 12, 2013 COA Board Meeting. E. Kleiman seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous Vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.