

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
May 8, 2014
MINUTES

PRESENT: Colleen Schaller, Roma Jean Brown, Phyllis Fanger, Dan Goldberg, Susanne Hughes, Eilene Kleiman, Andrea Rae, Lianne Relich
NOT PRESENT: Scott Brightman, Carol deLemos, Ed Cosgrove
STAFF: Jamie Brenner Gutner, LaTanya Steele
CONVENE: 5:45 p.m. – The Center at The Heights, 300 Hillside Avenue

Discussion:

I. Call To Order – 5:50 p.m. –C. Schaller Co-Chair

Colleen Schaller, Co-Chair, called the May 8, 2014 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.

II. Approve Minutes:

Eilene Kleiman moved that the Board vote to approve the April 10, 2014 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended. Roma Jean Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried: 3 yes, 4 abstentions.

III. Chairperson’s Report – C. deLemos & C. Schaller

C. Schaller reported that Thank You Letters have been sent. A brief discussion ensued regarding M. E. Weadock’s resignation. C. Schaller stated that C. deLemos would like Board members to attend the NBA Street Fair on June 7, 2014. It was noted that a number of Board members would not be available to during that time. S. Hughes expressed the importance of having a compelling reason for participating, such as highlighting SHINE, or presenting information that is important to the Town.

L. Relich stated that she could be the Board representative at the NBA Street Fair on June 7th but expressed concerns about the set up. C. Schaller noted that the deadline to signup is May 20th. A general discussion ensued, noting that the fall Street Fair is more popular.

R. J. Brown moved that the COA Board not participate this June but prepare a presentation for the Fall NBA Street Fair event. The motion duly seconded. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.

L. Relich stated that she would be happy to cover the NBA Street Fair this fall.

IV. Executive Director Report – J. Brenner Gutner

The Board expressed their appreciation for the informative Executive Director’s Report. D. Goldberg expressed an interest in attending the SHINE training in the future. Board members expressed their enthusiasm on the news that all rooms are in use. J. Brenner Gutner followed up on her conversation with a former COA Board member about the possibility of considering an 85 plus survey. In their discussion the former COA Board

member explained that she was more concerned with ensuring that at least one current program is surveyed each year as had been done in the past with results presented to the Board.

J. Brenner Gutner spoke about plans to roll out the fitness center, which would be opened, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Professional staff would be available to handle all relevant paper work (i.e. release forms, consent forms). A brief discussion ensued on how other senior centers handle their fitness rooms/programs. J. Brenner Gutner noted that a nominal fee would be charged, adding that the cost to fund an instructor would need to be subsidized also noting that the fitness room/program is for persons age 60 and older. J. Brenner Gutner stated that a doctor's permission is not needed, also that the instructor has insurance and is trained in CPR and AED. J. Brenner Gutner stated that the fitness program is not necessarily intended to replace a gym membership, pointing out that it is an addition to the health and wellness programs we offer. J. Brenner Gutner also pointed out that an announcement was placed in the Compass thanking the Friends of the Needham Elderly for their generosity in helping to fund the roll out. A general discussion ensued on safety. J. Brenner Gutner noted that all programs and participation continue to grow in a collaborative direction.

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

Joan was invited to the meeting to talk about issues related to the Compass. The Friends are considering changing their name and this was discussed at their meeting with no resolution. J. Brenner Gutner noted that she, Joan and LaTanya will attend the next Friends meeting.

VI. Springwell Report –

Springwell is busy and growing. Susanne Hughes is retiring the end of June.

VII. Committee Reports

Senior Center Update – C. Schaller, J. Brenner Gutner

C. Schaller reported that the patio furniture has been delivered. The Needham Exchange Club is still looking into supplying the Center with planters or raised beds for table top gardening on the Deck. A general discussion ensued on the safety of the patio flooring J. Brenner Gutner will do a walk through with Yustil.

C. Schaller mentioned that she had been approached about the heating at the Center for the Heights. C. Schaller encouraged the Board to let constituents know that heating is being worked on. J. Brenner Gutner shared her conversation with Chip Laffey on how the heating system works, noting that the temperature is set higher at the Center for the Heights than most buildings in town.

A general discussion ensued on furnishing the kitchen. E. Kleiman, and L. Relich offered to visit Boston Showcase to pick up what is needed.

Nominating Committee Update –

Nominating committee has met. C. Schaller and C. deLemos have agreed to continue as co-chairs. Nominating Committee has formerly nominated Colleen Schaller and Carol deLemos as Co-Chairs of the COA Board.

VIII. Board Member Update

Phyllis Fanger shared that some rural communities don't have a building and may meet one day a week sponsored by a group responsible for governing their regional area. Phyllis expressed her gratitude for what the Center for Heights offers the community.

Lianne Relich expressed that she is glad to be back. Lianne shared her conversation with friends who are starting a Senior Center in Florida and the logistics involving a swimming pool.

Roma Jean Brown announced that tonight is her last meeting. She is resigning from the Council on Aging Board. Roma stated that she will continue to volunteer and will remain on the Friends of the Needham Elderly Executive Board.

D. Goldberg made a motion to adjourn the May 8, 2014 COA Board Meeting. E. Kleiman seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous Vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.