

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
February 12, 2015
MINUTES

PRESENT: Colleen Schaller, Carol deLemos, Dan Goldberg, Susanne Hughes, Tom Keating
ABSENT: Ed Cosgrove, Phyllis Fanger, Monica Graham, Penny Grossman, Eilene Kleiman, Lianne Relich, Scott Brightman
STAFF: Jamie Brenner Gutner
CONVENE: 6:00 p.m. – The Center at The Heights, 300 Hillside Avenue, Needham, MA

Discussion:

Call To Order – 6:02 p.m. – Colleen Schaller, and Carol deLemos Co-Chairs

Carol deLemos, Co-Chair, called the February 12, 2015 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.

Approve Minutes:

D. Goldberg moved that the Board vote to approve the December 11, 2014 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended. S. Hughes seconded. The motion carried. Unanimous Vote.

Chairperson’s Report – Carol deLemos & Colleen Schaller

C. deLemos reported that we need to be in touch with the company that is working on the wall plaques and wall tiles. We can’t proceed until the problem with the existing plaques in the entrance has been taken care of.

Executive Director Report – J. Brenner Gutner

The Board expressed their appreciation for great and informative Executive Director’s Report. A general conversation ensued. D. Goldberg expressed that he was impressed when he was food shopping and saw the Council on Aging van with shoppers.

C. Schaller asked about participant reactions relative to the intergenerational partnerships mentioned in the report. J. Brenner Gutner responded that folks participate only if they are willing to. J. Brenner Gutner shared some information on what activities the Mitchell and Hillside schools as well as the Needham Extended Day and Charles Dover School have been involved in.

The conversation veered to a discussion on the consolidation of the Human Service Department, (Council on Aging, Public Health, Youth Services and Veterans Services) and the DSR4 requests. J. Brenner Gutner explained how the budget is looked at in totality and noted that there is great collaboration among the Division Directors and that she has received a lot of support from Jon Mattleman, Director of Youth Services and Tim McDonald, Director of the Health Division.

The conversation also veered to a discussion on how cancellation/closing of The Center is posted. C. Schaller stated that there is a sign on the front door of the Center that states, when Needham Public School is closed, or there is a delayed opening, The Center at The Heights does the same. J. Brenner Gutner added that there has been information in Senior Notes and also in the Compass. In the future we can be more specific about what an opening delay would mean for programs scheduled on that day. J. Brenner Gutner also explained the process that engages the DPW and noted that the Needham Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) deploy their efforts right away when there seems to be a need.

J. Brenner Gutner reported the Town Manager convened a Programming Summit to share information on what programs are offered, and what programs are needed throughout the Town. J. Brenner Gutner stated that she believes in community partnerships, which is currently evident through many of the collaborations currently happening. She noted that the focus of Council on Aging division is the senior population and that currently the programs and services offered at the Center at The Heights from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm are in line with our mission and goals related to our 60+ cohort. A general discussion ensued on programming and space.

Friends of The Center at the Heights, Inc. Report – J. Brenner Gutner

J. Brenner Gutner reported that the Friends are waiting to hear about the Tiles that they will purchase with part of the enrichment money.

Committee Reports

Art Committee – S. Hughes, E. Kleiman, C. Schaller, C. deLemos

C. Schaller stated that a meeting was scheduled the 18th but was postponed, the next meeting is scheduled for the 20 when the Committee will travel to Boston. A general discussion ensued on the type of artwork being considered.

Adjournment

D. Goldberg made a motion to adjourn the February 12, 2015 COA Board Meeting. S. Hughes seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous Vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:50p.m.