

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

February 18, 2016

MINUTES

Present: Carol deLemos, Colleen Schaller, Susanne Hughes, Dan Goldberg, Tom Keating, Ed Cosgrove, Phyllis Fanger

Not Present: Lianne Relich, Penny Grossman, and Monica Graham

Staff: Jamie Brenner Gutner

Convene: 6:00 pm – The Center at the Heights, 300 Hillside Avenue

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM. Carol deLemos and Colleen Schaller, Co-Chairs, called the meeting to order.

APPROVE MINUTES: Minutes from the January 14 Board meeting will be approved in March, 2016.

CHAIR REPORT:

A letter was sent to Mr. Richard Carey reaffirming the Council on Aging Board policy regarding hanging artwork or plaques at the Center at the Heights. The letter also included a statement that the Council on Aging Advisory Board is in agreement with the COA Art Policy.

A discussion about nutrition and seniors ensued following on the observations of Board Chair Carol deLemos regarding what she perceived as poor food choices made by seniors while she was traveling. It was noted that the Senior Lunch at the Center at the Heights, provided by Springwell, has improved and that many participants avail themselves of this option.

The Town Manager, Kate Fitzpatrick has confirmed that she will meet with the COA Board on Thursday, April 28th. This will replace the regular Board meeting of April 14th. Please submit questions ahead of time to Colleen or Carol. Of particular interest for discussion is the reclassification of the position of Executive Director of the COA.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A question was raised whether information on tax credits given to seniors by Council on Aging staff constituted professional tax advice. The Director stated that the information given is an explanation of published material and it is not professional tax advice. Additionally when referrals are given to seniors at least three individual names are given for possible contacts for further information.

Danielle Arenda started at the Council on Aging on February 8, 2016. Danielle is the new Administrative Assistant at the COA. Her background includes administrative experience and work with homeless veterans.

Interviews for an Assistant Program Coordinator for SHINE have been completed. The hope is that this person will begin their duties by mid-March.

A 30 hour grant funded Social Work position was reposted and interviews with a deadline for applications on March 4th.

The Finance Committee is to vote in mid-February on the request to re-appropriate funds for a 37.5 hour social work position to work with adults of all ages.

The Director met with the liaisons from the Finance Committee. The meeting was positive and good questions were asked.

FRIENDS OF THE CENTER AT THE HEIGHTS: The Friends did not meet in January.

WALL ART COMMITTEE: A new hanging system is being ordered to allow art work to be hung on the second floor to the right of the elevator on the wall leading to the patio doors..

BOARD MEMBER UPDATE: Tom Keating is the COA Board member who is the liaison to the Needham Library. Tom made a presentation to the Library Board about the COA as well as activities and programs that take place at the Center at the Heights. Tom shared his slide presentation for other Board members to use if they reach out to additional community groups. It is a general sense that many Needham citizens are unaware of programs and services provided by the Council on Aging and at the Center at the Heights. The Library Board was interested in how the library can support the COA.

Phyllis Fanger stated that residents of North Hill are interested in how to access Senior Charlie Cards. Access to getting these cards is a challenge. Jamie will look into possible options for Needham residents.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:04. Dan Goldberg moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Ed Cosgrove.