

Minutes of COA Board Meeting of January 13, 2014

Board Members Present: Ethel Ampey, Elizabeth Cadigan, Lois Carra, Carole Feeney-Withrow, Miranda Heibel, Kenneth Hebert, Pearl Hines, Benjamin Horner, Ismail Laher and Jeanne Ryde

Absent: William Cobham

Staff Present: Alicia Johnson, Vincent McCarthy, Susan Pacheco and Emma Watkins

Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Vice-President, Lois Carra

1. Review/acceptance of minutes of December 9, 2013 meeting

Lois Carra requested approval of minutes. Motion to accept and unanimously approved.

2. Reports

COA Executive Director

- Cambridge MLK Day of Service 2013 will happen on Monday, January 20th. The Senior Center is one of the sites that host this event.
- Changes to medical transportation for Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) patients. Starting 2/1/14, patients with special transportation needs who live in Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Somerville, Malden, Medford, Revere, or Winthrop can call 617-522-3159 to get a ride to their CHA visit and back home. Rides may be scheduled for Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (except for certain holidays) and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Patients should call 2 to 14 days before the appointment to schedule pick up and drop off in a timely fashion. This is included in the Transportation Resource List distributed.
- Changes to the YMCA program was presented. As of 1/1/14, the COA implemented new guidelines. Guidelines were distributed. In 2013, only 11 day passes/week were able to be distributed and in 2014, increased the weekly allotment to 22 day passes/week.
- Currently getting together 2nd quarter performance measures. This also involves year end projections for 2014 and proposed projections for 2015. These will be shared with Board at the February meeting.
- Following up with Pearl's request made at October Board meeting, invite to the new Mayor. With permission from the Board, Director will extend an invitation to Mayor Maher to attend future Board meeting.

Citywide Senior Center

- Computer Lab Instructor, Eve Flochild, retired 12/31/13. Position is currently posted.
- PT receptionist position is also posted.
- Many varied programs offered this month: Defeating the Winter Blues; Men's & Women's Support Groups; Monthly theme party: "Frozen Beach Party"; Community Servings and MLK Event.

North Cambridge Senior Center (NCSC)

- Alicia reported that she is settling into her new role. Many varied programs offered this month: Public Health presentation on Indoor Air Quality; shopping trip to Burlington Mall; presentation on the "Benefits of Getting Vaccinated"; Chinese New Year celebration.
- Seeking interested individuals to serve on NCSC Advisory Council. Accepting applications until 2/14/14.

Client Services

- Information & Referral Specialist position is posted.
- Vincent thanked Alicia for assisting during this transition period.
- Susan and Vincent will have a meeting with Elizabeth Killen, SHINE Coordinator. COA seeking a SHINE volunteer to have office hours at senior center.
- Snow Exemption program well underway. Total of 62 seniors enrolled in program. Also, have recruited 39 students to do shoveling for a fee.

- Will be attending Guardianship training on 1/23 and Food Stamps training on 2/6.

Old Business

- Pearl requested that when staff attends trainings, that information learned be presented at Board meetings.

New Business

- Pearl asked if there were a way of seeing how many elders in Cambridge were homeowners. This info most likely can be provided by Cliff Cook of Community Development Dept.
- Pearl also introduced the issue that homeowners face in finding reputable contractors. Does the city provide a vetted list? Susan and Miranda both discussed how the COA and SCES have to give at least three resources and that neither party could provide a vetted list. Discussion continued about neighborhood associations and lists of contractors. An example would be Cambridge At Home (CAH). In order to receive the names of services, one needs to be a member. Current membership for CAH is \$1,000 for a single-person household and for a couple it is \$1,300. CAH serves Cambridge, Belmont, Arlington, Watertown and Somerville.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

Next meeting: Monday, February 10, 2014 @ 11:00 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Pacheco.