

## **Minutes of COA Board Meeting of March 9, 2015**

**Board Members Present:** Ethel Ampey, Daniel Burroso, Anne Fabiny, Kenneth Hebert, Miranda Heibel, Pearl Hines, Benjamin Horner, Ismail Laher, Lily Owyang and Jeanne Ryde

**Absent:** Lois Carra

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

1. **Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by President Heibel**
2. **Roll Call** – Secretary Hebert called roll with 10 present.
3. **Review/acceptance of minutes of January 12, 2015 meeting. There was no meeting in February due to weather.**  
President Heibel requested approval of minutes. Motion to accept and unanimously approved.
4. Welcome to new Board member: Officer Dan Burroso.
5. **Reports**

### **COA Executive Director** – Susan Pacheco

- Current Baker Administration has not yet appointed a Secretary of Elder Affairs. Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) is under the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Gov. Baker has appointed Ms. Marylou Sudders as Secretary.
- Staffing has been very difficult for Cambridge Senior Center. Currently have Food Services Assistant/Weekend Coordinator out on medical leave. This position is a shared position with Somerville Cambridge Elder Services (SCES). SCES pays for 20 hrs/week and City of Cambridge pays for 19.5 hrs/wk. SCES has temporarily hired someone and the City is currently looking to extend the additional time to this staff person. This hire is *temporary*.
- ED has met with Human Services Admin/Fiscal staff to prepare for FY16 budget. Much of our funding is set. We are very fortunate that we are not asked to cut our funding, unlike in many cities. We are requesting additional funds for the following: rental increase for North Cambridge Senior Center; food pantry to offset decrease in Project Bread grant; food; costs associated with delivery of food for the pantry by Food for Free (this is a new cost as of 1/1/15).
- **SAVE THE DATE:** Cambridge Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition will convene community forum on 6/18/15.

### **Citywide Senior Center** – Emma Watkins

- Mysteries of the Cosmos is in its fifth year continued to be led by Harvard Grad students and attracts new seniors as well as city employees.
- Upcoming events:
  - Health & Wellness Talk: New Year's Resolutions with Roberta Robinson Thursday, January 15th
  - Senior Center's St Patrick's Party: DJ Owen Howell will be in the house Thursday March 19th.
  - Other events this month: a screening of the movie *Red Tails* the story of the Tuskegee Airmen in WWII during Black History Month March 12<sup>th</sup>, and Chinese New Year party March 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **North Cambridge Senior Center (NCSC)** - Alicia Johnson

- Well received events in February were The Orchard House tour and Remembrance Day. Upcoming programming in North Cambridge: Podiatrist Dr. Dwyer March 2nd, St. Patrick's Day card design March 10th. Safety Awareness with Officer Daniel Burroso returns March 12th and Pi day will be celebrated March 13th. There will also be a monthly movie showcase on March 18th and a daytrip to Ikea.

### **Client Services** –Vincent McCarthy

- The Men's support group will screen the 1962 movie *American Graffiti* and later in the month reminisce about their first cars.
- Information and Referral Specialist, Nykky Glasgow, will be going through the official intensive SHINE training in February and will be testing for the SHINE certification at the end of February. We have now been given an additional SHINE Volunteer, Ginny Neumann. Ginny observed our SHINE Volunteer, Cathy Cody, for a few months and is now taking clients of her own. She is fully SHINE certified and will be seeing clients on Thursdays from 10am – 2pm. Cathy Cody will continue to see clients on Wednesdays, 10am – 2pm.

**6. Old Business –**

**7. New Business –**

- MA Councils on Aging (MCOA) needs your help. MCOA's current campaign to raise the Formula Grant to \$12/elder by 2020.
- ED submitted to the Board draft letter of current letter written by MCOA for legislative advocacy. More information on this can be found at: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/>.
- Next steps following approval by the Board is to send letter to representatives on behalf of the Board.
- Following discussion a motion was made by Board Member Ampey to approve letter be sent by the Board. Board Member Owyang seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved with Board Member Hines abstaining until she had more time to review letter. Board Member Hines voted her approval on 3/10/15.
- Final draft of letter will be forwarded to Board Members and sent to representatives.
- Board Member Hines presented a letter to the Board that was given to her by a Senior Center participant regarding procedural and programmatic concerns. Letter was submitted to ED for response to participant. Board Member Hines requested Board be informed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

**Next meeting: Monday, April 13, 2015 @ 11:00 a.m.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Castagna and Susan Pacheco.