

Minutes of Board Meeting of September 11, 2012

Board Members Present: William Cobham, President,
Yaw O. Adjei-Koranteng, Maureen Harty, Ismail Laher, and Carmela Schipani.

Staff Present: Lisa Castagna; Eileen Ginnetty; Vincent McCarthy; Susan Pacheco

Welcome- President William Cobham

Minutes from June 12, 2012 meeting were accepted with minor changes.

Introduction of New Board members- Bill and Eileen introduced Ismail Laher a Cambridge senior, past COA board member and Somerville Cambridge Elder Services Advisory Board member. Ismail is scheduled to receive the Peace Award from the Cambridge Peace Commission on September 23rd. Lois Carra Ph.D. and Elizabeth Cadigan MSN, RN, are also new board members.

Transition discussion: Eileen and Susan spoke about Eileen's imminent retirement, Eileen feeling torn between home and the COA and not doing either place justice. Her last day will be September 21st. There will be a party for seniors and staff on September 24th at 3:30 pm. Susan as Acting Executive Director stated Eileen is not just a boss but a great friend and support. During this transition period several of the staff are out due to leave or illness including the Senior Center director, Activities director, Bus driver and our Information and Referral specialist. COA did however gain a new 19.5 hour office aide Sanaa Mohamed. In North Cambridge meals site coordinator Kathy Florentino is reduced to three days per week and a replacement 19.5 hour reception position is yet to be filled. Vincent will also have more of a presence in Citywide during the transition and while Emma is out. He is moderating a men's discussion group here on the 12th. Also a board meeting date change to 2nd Monday at 11:30 – 1pm tabled until December.

Directors update: Eileen shared results of the Senior Center Survey. On a scale 1 to 10, they range from 8.58 on #7 I have a number of close friends that visit the center to 9.7 on # 8 The front desk staff treat me with respect. Generally people are happy to be here and that was reflected in the comments as well. "Keep up the good work!" and "I'm glad you're here and have nothing more to add." Those who thought we needed improvement would like more of the same i.e. more exercise classes or computer lab time.

When there were three thefts from staff purses in July, there was discussion to mount cameras in the center. That idea is now on hold since there was no theft five years prior, or since July, probably due to better vigilance of belongings. The City Council also has to approve cameras in city buildings. Other suggestions were the Center keep the same hours as the rest of the city.

North Cambridge Update: Vincent reported on the intergenerational art project. Senior knitters along with Gately youth have knit 70 hats for the homeless so far. SCES is teaming up with WOW for an 8 week nutrition class. The popular fall programs are restarting at 2050. Public Health will provide flu shots at 2050 on 10/10 2:30 – 4:30 and at Citywide 10/31 1:00- 3:00.

Citywide Update: Susan has planned an All- Staff training from the Samaritan group "Taking care of yourself and others". We received a mini grant toward managing diabetes and are working on an event. Our Social Service group along with the Community Engagement team will present Aging 101 discussing resources available to seniors in the community on December 6, here at the Senior Center.

Respectfully Submitted
Lisa Castagna

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 2012 9:30 am