

Minutes of COA Board Meeting April, 2017

Board Members Present: Mary Ann Dalton, Pearl Hines, Lily Owyang and Eva Paddock, Ashley Thibault

Invited Guests (Friends of the COA): Katherine Rafferty; Mary Jane Nottonson; Sheila Russell

Absent: Daniel Buroso; Lois Carra; Jennifer Chisholm

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

President Owyang introduced and welcomed new Board Member: Ashley Thibault.

Call to Order – President Owyang called meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
Minutes of January 10, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

New Business – Joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Friends of the Council on Aging

- Current Friends balance is \$75,000. Annually fund 1,500 Senior Day Passes to YMCA (\$7,200) and Parking spot for Senior Shuttle (\$2,400).
- There is no ongoing fundraising efforts.
- Idea from members of the Board to the Friends a joint letter as an annual fund raising effort. Mailing is a low risk effort; minimal effort required and yields a good donation.
- The Friends currently hold a 501 (c) (3).
- The current status of the Friends membership does not allow for more active fundraising.
- The attending Friends will discuss at their Annual meeting.

COA Executive Director – Susan Pacheco

- COA is now on Facebook!
- ED presented at MA Retired Teachers Association meeting. Presentation: Aging 101.
- Publicity efforts for booklet: Senior Moments was shared. To date 43 copies have been sold.
- On April 13th at 6:00 p.m., Mayor E. Denise Simmons and the LGBTQ+ Commission will be co-hosting *Come Out of the Margins: A Cambridge Town Hall Meeting* in City Hall.
- Advocacy alert: MA Home Care's analysis of the House Ways & Means FY 18 budget, mirrors Governor's budget very closely on some items, but also breaks with the Governor in several important ways:
 - Prevents a \$10 million cut to Adult Foster care rates
 - Gives adult day health a \$4million rate hike
 - Gives elder home care \$11.2 million in new funds
 - Consolidates the home care and Enhanced Community Options Program

Lisa Castagna and ED attended a meeting regarding Boards and Commissions. We have received a Public Body Checklist for Creating and Approving Meeting Minutes. All City Boards and Commissions will have the same protocol for Agendas and Minutes. This is issued by the Attorney General's Division of Open Government – March 12, 2013.

Citywide Senior Center – Emma Watkins

- The months of February and March various celebrations: Chinese New Year; Valentine's Day; Mardi Gras. Also screening of documentary "The Freedom Riders" to commemorate Black History Month.
- Various health presentations such as Cough, Cold and Flu.
- In honor of International Women's Day, wonderful program with Eva Martin Blythe, ED of Cambridge YWCA presented on the work of the YWCA to empower women.
- Ongoing construction of the Center's roof has been difficult. Programming continues but often classes have been moved, in order to accommodate.
- April is the month to celebrate all our volunteers. Bob Hurlbut will be key note speaker at the April 27th Recognition Event.

North Cambridge Senior Center (NCSC) - Alicia Johnson

- Upcoming events at North Cambridge: Bingo and a Brown Bag Lunch Tuesday April 4th
- WOW Group Presentation Energy Healing with Roberta Robinson Wednesday April 5th
- Elder Fair 2017 Wednesday April 12th
- Volunteer Recognition Luncheon Tuesday April 18th the North Cambridge Senior Center Staff would like to thank all of the volunteers that help make programming successful.
- Day Trip to Somerville High and Lunch at the Highlander Café Thursday April 27th
- Podiatrist Dr. Dwyer Monday May 1st

Client Services – Vincent McCarthy

- Congratulations to Outreach Case Manager Liz Seelman for organizing an incredible event on Thursday, April 6th Handle with Care: Boosting Insight and Motivation to Reduce Clutter.
- New Hire – We had some very good candidates for the open position of Information & Referral Specialist and have made an offer to a very qualified applicant and are waiting for final approval from city hall. This person comes with a background in ASAPs and experience in benefits programs. She also has worked closely with the homeless population as well as people who have been victims of domestic violence.
- Recent outreach efforts: Senior Safe with Fire Department, 50 Churchill, 2050 Mass Ave, 237 Franklin St.
- Door Knocking –Last week Fresh Pond Apartments on Rindge Ave. Vincent will be doing Newtowne Ct. on 4/26.
- SCES – Vincent will be at SCES fair on 4/12.

Old Business

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 @ 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Castagna and Susan Pacheco.