

## **Minutes of COA Board Meeting December 11, 2018**

**Board Members Present:** Lois Carra, Jennifer Chisholm, Eva Paddock, Mary Ann Dalton, JoAnn Haas, Pearl Hines, Lily Owyang and Beverly Sealey,

**Absent:** Daniel Buroso, Edna Stamp

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

**Call to Order** – President Owyang called meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

A motion to approve and accept the November 2018 Board minutes was made by Lois Carra and seconded by Eva Paddock.

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

- ED updated the Board on the Cambridge Warming Center (CWC). CWC opened on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Overall the opening has been fine. There are various facility concerns that ED is working with alongside Facility Manager, Desi Powell. ED acknowledged Mr. Powell. He has been extremely attentive to all facility issues in the operation of the CWC – cleanliness; equipment/supply management and security.
- ED presented specific challenge with Saturday operations. Census has been declining on Saturdays for some time. Fewer participants coming to the meal site; fewer drop-ins and fewer attendees at the only formal activity on Saturdays. Currently faced with a new challenge; the instructor of the only formal activity is out ill. ED has formally requested closure of the Center for both Saturday, 12/22 and 12/29. That has been approved. More discussion will occur regarding Saturdays.
- ED, along with Lily Owyang met with Brian Wilmer, Field Placement Director, Lesley University. ED is exploring the possibility of student placement at the COA/Senior Center. Students would be from the Expressive Arts Program. Further updates will be made at future Board meetings.
- ED updated Board on Age Well Advisory Council. LGBT Aging Project has funding to pilot training series for COAs/Senior Centers. The program is called Building Bridges. This is a dialogue about LGBT elders with their elder peers. The session will be on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 (12:30-1:30). ED requested that any Board members available to attend to please do so. Attendance by Board members would show support of the COA Board in ensuring that the Cambridge Senior Centers are a welcoming place for all.

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

- Our Lunch and Learn series in November featured Muna Kangsen, Muna is a native of Cameroon Africa and this summer paid a visit to Cameroon. There was some interesting dialogue. Past presenters have included Councilor Denise Simmons. December Lunch and Learn today features Lisa Castagna who will present a slide show of her recent trip to Alaska.
- The Thanksgiving Dinner Party on 11/15 was well attended.
- Evergreen Holiday Concert by the Asian-American Chorus is upcoming on 12/19.
- The Senior Center Holiday Party is upcoming on 12/19 with DJ Owen Howell

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

- NCSC is in its final phase of operating out of 266B Rindge Ave. Construction at 2050 is expected to be completed by end of January and it is hopeful to return to our space sometime in March.
- NCSC Senior Center staff is in the planning phase of the Open House. For our official re-opening. Center staff is also looking at how to best utilize the dining room space for certain classes, to continue offering simultaneous programming. Our meals program operates out of the dining room Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and sharing dining room space will not interfere with classes. Staff is also

planning on adding another enrichment class and will invite feedback from center participants. There is a possibility of bringing back knitting.

- Our podiatrist is considering discontinuing his visits to the NCSC due to decrease in patients.

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

- Veteran's Day Appreciation Social Collaboration with Cambridge Veterans Services. The 11/13 event was successful, and we hope to do more collaborations with Veterans' Services.
- Art Tour – Thursday, 11/29 Infinite Present – Revelations from Islamic Design in Contemporary Art The tour was very successful, and we hope to do more collaborations of this type with Arts Council.
- Getting Ready for Winter 12/5 Thanks to all departments that participated. About 30 seniors attended fair.
- Medicare Open Enrollment officially closed on 12/7 Maryellen saw approximately 40 people in addition to the Open House Dedicated SHINE LINE – helped to keep things more streamlined and will be something we use again next year.
- Healing & Feeling – Support through Loss First meeting was 12/12 and a great success – 6 participants including 2 new ones. Plans to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- Men's Group Holiday breakfast 12/18. Next month we will do another Community Service Project to benefit the annual Homeless Census.
- Meditation and Mandela is slowly growing.
- Without getting into detail, Vincent shared that we have had a few emergency situations where 911 was called. He wanted to thank the staff for being so responsive and being able to recognize when people needed help. This is always the case and everyone always pitches in and these situations become team efforts.

#### **Old Business**

- No old business.

#### **New Business**

- Eva Paddock motioned to delay the start time of the January 8 meeting to coordinate with that date's Lunch and Learn event (Building Bridges). Beverly Sealey seconded, the motion passed.
- President Owyang motioned to recognize Susan's leadership and the COA staff with gratitude and appreciation. Seconded by Lois Carra. Also a shout out from Beverly Sealey seconded by JoAnn Haas and Pearl Hines.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 @ 10:30 a.m. PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE! THIS IS ONLY FOR THE JANUARY 2019 MEETING.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Castagna and Susan Pacheco.