

Minutes of COA Board Meeting February 12, 2019

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

Absent: Daniel Buroso, Eva Paddock and Edna Stamp

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

Call to Order – President Owyang called meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Review/Acceptance of minutes: Motion made by Lois Carra to accept the minutes of January 8, 2019 meeting. Second by Mary Ann Dalton. Minutes approved.

Executive Director – Susan Pacheco

- The Senior Center is closed on Saturdays February 9th and will reopen on May 4th.
- EOEI Formula Grant is at City Hall for required signatures. Appropriation of funds scheduled in late March.
- New outreach event: PARK(ing) Day on Friday, September 20th. Alicia Johnson will be attending the first meeting on March 7th. This is an excellent opportunity for us to outreach and showcase our programming at both centers.
- Emma Watkins, Vincent McCarthy and ED attended the Senior Advisory Council, chaired by Councillor Denise Simmons. We presented on the COA/Senior Center programs/activities/services.
- The entire COA/Senior Center staff will participate in a training - Cultural Competency: Serving LGBT Older Adults on February 27th.

Citywide Senior Center – Emma Watkins

- Due to the weather we rescheduled February's Lunch and Learn and Valentine's Party. On Wednesday, February 6, the Chinese Seniors celebrated the Chinese New Year with music, dancing and feasting on delicious food.
- On Thursday, February 14 we were once again invited to the Red Sox Valentine's Day Dance at Fenway Park.
- February 20 we will have an outing to the Greek Corner for lunch
- This month our health and wellness presentation will be a talk on Pulmonary health by Dr. Alex White.
- Monday students from the Amigos School paid a visit to the Latino group. The seniors and students shared stories
- February 28 we will have a visit by Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan – to talk about winter related scams.
- Outings for March; Boston Flower and Garden show, lunch at the Asgard restaurant. In commemoration of International Women Day, we are showing the documentary RBG Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
- We now have a substitute yoga instructor allowing that program to continue.
- Some Springtime ideas floated, a Saturday morning garden club when the deck reopens. Another use for the Atrium after the War Memorial is returned.
- **North Cambridge Senior Center (NCSC) - Alicia Johnson**
- The North Cambridge Senior Center is looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day with a catered lunch from SCES. Currently, 18 participants have signed up.
- Susan and Alicia viewed the completed senior center space at 2050 Mass Ave. The center has been brightened up with new paint and flooring. The partition in the Main room has been removed and its

absence enlarges the room. CHA has replaced the kitchen stove and repaired the kitchen cabinet doors. The two single stall bathrooms will have gender neutral signage.

- Although a move date has not yet been assigned, we will take the same approach as we did last March with notification and temporary halting of programming. We will have to suspend programming, so staff can pack the senior center, move, and unpack and set up at 2050 Mass Ave. Notification will include, flyers posted in the center and handed out to class participants. Letters will also be mailed to participants homes and a robo-call will be sent out. We will have an open house welcoming everyone back to 2050 Mass Ave. when our doors officially re-open.
- Following up from last month's Board Meeting, I discussed adding an additional art class, which will focus on drawing with pastels. Drawing with Pastels class is expected to begin after our return to 2050 Mass Ave. in late spring.
- We are pleased to announce that we will have Mahjong on Wednesday's beginning April 2019. Our Strength building and Zumba instructor, Suzie, will facilitate Mahjong and can instruct anyone who hasn't played before. All skills levels and new players are welcome, Mahjong sets will be provided.

Client Services – Vincent McCarthy

- Snow resources We now have 14 student shovelers on the list.
- Men's Group February 19 Sports Memories with Kristin Bell. Film & Discussion will be Rosa Parks Story February 26
- SCES and COA will screen a LGBT intergenerational movie on March 26.
- There are more spring transportation requests as the Pool team takes to the road.

Old Business

- Discussion regarding Friends of the Council on Aging. Friends are planning liquidation. It is not yet determined, but funds will be transferred to COA General Donation budget line. More discussion at future meeting.

New Business

- The COA does accept donations. We recently received \$60.00 from MIT.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 @ 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Castagna and Susan Pacheco.