

## Minutes of COA Board Meeting June 11, 2019

**Board Members Present:** Lois Carra, JoAnn Haas, Pearl Hines, Lily Owyang, and Eva Paddock

**Absent:** Daniel Buroso, Jennifer Chisholm, Mary Ann Dalton and Beverly Sealey

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

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

**Review/Acceptance of minutes:** Motion made by Lily to accept the minutes of May 14, 2019 meeting. Second by Lois. Minutes approved.

### Executive Director – Susan Pacheco

- ED updated Board on COA Friends. The matter of dissolving The Friends is currently being reviewed by the City's Law Dept. ED will update Board once decision is rendered.
- COA in collaboration with SCES will host "Enhancing Wellness: Mental Health and the Impact on Your Community" on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. This will be our 5<sup>th</sup> year hosting an event to promote Elder Abuse Awareness Month (June). ED is working along with Protective Services staff to distribute purple ribbons in the community, the symbol of Elder Abuse Awareness. OpEd pieces have been written by ED along with Protective Services worker, Norah Al-Wetaid.
- ED shared recent scams targeting seniors. There was a recent article that specifically stated: ***"Cambridge, Massachusetts: Recent Attacks on Seniors Prompt Police to Issue Public Safety Alert, Urging Older Residents to Carry New Safety Device"***. This was a complete marketing tactic. ED did reach out to Cambridge Police. CPD reported that this was not the case. Also reported that CPD had not experienced any crime trends or patterns where elderly are being attacked. A good reminder to all of us, scammers are out there and try various tactics to exploit.

### Citywide Senior Center – Emma Watkins

- Activities this month include: Senior brunch at Cambridge Boathouse with a presentation by George S. Dyer, MD. He trained others in the aftermath of Haiti's earthquakes June 4.
- June 6, Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. June 11 Lunch and Learn with Drew Griffin DNA and Genealogical Research. June 13 a new 8-week Meditation class. June 19 Gordan Parks exhibit at Cooper Gallery and IHop lunch in Harvard Sq.
- June 25 Annual Charlesgate Yacht Club luncheon and cruise. June 27 Art of Dancing Celebration.

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

- NCSC returned to 2050 Mass. Ave. IT is still working on phone and internet. Reopening is on June 17. North Cambridge Charlesgate Yacht Club luncheon and cruise, June 18. Open House is on June 24.
- Watercolors has moved to Tuesdays.

### Client Services – Vincent McCarthy

- 2nd Monday LGBTQ dinner is on June 10
- Summer fans to be delivered June 12
- Caregiver Support June 17
- Men's Group drum circle June 18
- Film and Discussion June 24, Movie: Stonewall

### Old Business

- We have not been to hire for Food Pantry position. A receptionist position is vacant now too.

**New Business**

- Director Hines is still concerned about people lined up outside pre-opening hours. They are mostly Food Pantry participants and have no other association with the Senior Center.
- ED reiterated the COA Board is comprised of City Manager appointees. Senior Advisory Council is made up of community members. An invitation will be extended to Councillor Simmons to attend the September COA board meeting.
- The COA board appreciates the staff and thanks them for the Volunteer luncheon. President Owyang went further to express thanks to all staff, including Facility Staff: Desi Powell, Sr. and Donald (DC) Copeland, Jr. Truly appreciates the individual efforts of all!

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 10 @ 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Castagna and Susan Pacheco.