

Minutes of COA Board Meeting of November 10, 2015

Board Members Present: Lois Carra, Pearl Hines, Benjamin Horner, Lily Owyang, and Jeanne Ryde

Absent: Ethel Ampey, Daniel Buroso

Staff Present: Lisa Castagna, Vincent McCarthy, Susan Pacheco and Emma Watkins
October meeting minutes were approved.

COA Executive Director – Susan Pacheco

- ED distributed FY 16 Objectives & Performance Measures for COA. Discussion explaining targeted and actual #'s.
- ED will be joining others from City DV Steering Cmte, to do a domestic violence training for the Cambridge Fire Dept. the week of 11/30/15.
- ED discussed advocacy request from MCOA. **Support for Bill number S. 1457 – An Act relative to the “Circuit Breaker” property tax credit for seniors that would eliminate the “assessed valuation of a senior’s house” as part of the formula for eligibility to obtain the credit.**
- A letter will be sent on behalf of Board to The Honorable Jay R. Kaufman and Michael J. Rodrigues, Chairs of Joint Committee on Revenue.
- Board members were in agreement and would forward to ED support for Bill.

Client Services – Vincent McCarthy

- Congratulations to Liz for being this year’s recipient of the Nancy P. Kahn Award at SCES.
- Open Enrollment – Thursday, November 5th’s Open Enrollment Informational session was very successful and we had 30 participants in attendance. We will also have a SHINE open house event on Thursday, November 12th from. There will be 4 SHINE counselors available to assist participants
- Men’s Group In November we will have two Drum Circles. The first one is today and the second one will be 11/24. During one of our recent groups some of the guys began to talk about musical instruments and mentioned percussion specifically. The group was excited to learn that the COA has a collection of percussion instruments. Muna really took the lead on this topic and will be leading tomorrow’s group. He has been a huge help with the Men’s Group and has built up a very good report with the members.
- Outreach - Nykky will be organizing a series of outreach visits to the local housing sites. The first one is scheduled for The Manning Apartments on Franklin St. on Monday, December 7th. She hopes to visit Miller’s River in January and then work through the rest of the sites.
- Screening of “Cocoon” and facilitated conversation by Kathy Hoey, LICSW, Program Manager Geriatric Service, CHA Kathy describes the movie as “a heartfelt film about aging, living and dying and will lead the discussion around these types of issues. The past screening of Silver Lining Playbook on Tuesday, Oct. 30th was very successful with 12 participants.

Citywide Senior Center – Emma Watkins

- On October 29 the Cambridge Senior Center was the place to be – the Senior Center’s 20th Anniversary was a great success. We have over 160 seniors plus additional visitors, well-wishers and Human Service administrators. The food and entertainment was top notch. I do believe that everyone present had a wonderful time. I want to give kudos to COA and Senior Center staff for doing an outstanding job in getting everyone served quickly. Without this “Team” effort this party would not have been possible. While the Anniversary Party was in full gear, the Senior 8 Ball League (our billiard team) was had a competition against the Newton Senior Center. We had a full house.
- In October there was also a wonderful Mid-Autumn Celebration concert by the Evergreen Choir. An Art Exhibit and Reception by our Water color painting class as well as a display of jewelry from the Jewelry class. There were many events, lectures that took place in October that we are very proud of.
- Moving into November we have a sold out Thanksgiving Party scheduled for November 19. The kitchen staff will be serving the traditional “Thanksgiving Dinner” with all the trimmings and the seniors will be entertained by Andy Baer & his Band.

- We have a growing Latina group whose mission is to celebrate Latin culture through all kinds of social activities.
- We have a new book group that off to a wonderful start and we have made a connection to the new outreach Librarian Janet Borron - she comes to the center once a month with a wide selection of books that she critiques and if you have a library card you can check one out.
- The city has three holidays this month, tomorrow, Wednesday November 11 (Veteran's Day and Thursday and Friday November 26 and 27. The Center will be closed on these holidays. We are down one Staff member in activities which makes it challenging for everyone.

North Cambridge Senior Center (NCSC) - Alicia Johnson

- SHINE: Changes to Medicare Presentation Tuesday November 10th will be helpful during Medicare Open Enrollment October 15th through December 7th. This presentation will go over any changes to Medicare Parts A, B and D And discuss Medicare Supplement Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans
- On Veteran's Day Holiday November 11th The Center will be closed
- Dancing For Balance Cancelled on Thursday November 12th
- Holiday bazaar Saturday November 14th from is now accepting donations.
- Podiatrist Dr. Dwyer will be here Monday November 16th.
- Suzi is taking over WOW and 2050 is a collection site for the re-usable bag drive.

Old Business

- There have been an absence of new Board member assignments due to the elections.

New Business

- Pearl Hines has requested more presentations. Emma responded we are always working to bring new ones in.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 @ 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Castagna and Susan Pacheco.