

Minutes of COA Board Meeting Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Board Members Present: Lois Carra, Jennifer Chisholm, Mary Ann Dalton, Pearl Hines, Lily Owyang, and Ashley Thibault

Absent: Daniel Buroso, Eva Paddock

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

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

Minutes of May 9th 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

COA Executive Director – Susan Pacheco

- ED shared AN INVITATION: Governor Charles D. Baker's Council to Address Aging in Massachusetts Community Listening Sessions. Sessions scheduled: 6/21, 6/26, 7/25 and 8/2. All sessions in central and western MA.
- ED involved in the Search Committee to hire new ED for Somerville Cambridge Elder Services. Long time ED John O'Neill, retiring at the end of October following 38 years of service.
- CEAPC (Cambridge Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition) event is scheduled for June 22nd @ 1:00. True Story Theatre will be presenting. Funding for the program generously funded through Tufts Health Plan Foundation via Transition House.

Citywide Senior Center – Emma Watkins

- The Senior Center is now on Facebook. We are offering Facebook classes to help seniors set up a Facebook account so they can keep up sometimes in real time with what is happening at the senior center.
- Prince Hall Mason – In May we were honored with a presentation by Red Mitchell, a World War 2 veteran and a Prince Hall Mason. The program was attended by Mayor Simmons – who was instrumental in having the city of Cambridge erect a monument in Cambridge Commons honoring Price Hall.
- Cross division collaborations - Richard Slater from DHSP came and prepared for the seniors, rack of lamb, a hearty salad with a delicious dessert. Lemon pie filling served on graham crackers, I am told that it was delicious. The seniors really enjoy the cooking demonstrations.
- Cosmos Presentation – We are pleased to have re-established our connection to Harvard University, school of astronomy. Dr. Cara Battersby, PhD Astrophysicist gave a presentation on our galaxy, The Center of the Milky Way. Although we did not have time to properly get the word out about this program we have 13 seniors present for the presentation. And after the presentation the seniors had many questions. The Dr. had a difficult time leaving the room as seniors followed her out as she was trying to leave asking some really good questions.
- Mandarin Chinese language Classes – is off to a slow start. Some seniors said that the time we are offering the class is a problem for them.
- Evergreen Chorus Spring Concert – The Chinese Evergreen Chorus Spring Concert took place on Wednesday, June 7, it was well attended and the performances were all very good.
- Walking Club begins tomorrow, Wednesday June 14, we will be going to Castle Island. On Friday, June 16, Liz Seelman, the COA Case Manager will oversee a Bird Watching trip to Mt. Auburn Cemetery. We will take our annual visit to the Cambridge Boat Club for brunch and a lecture on June 28.
- Tall Ships Spirit of Boston Cruise – June 20 the Senior Center's outing will be on the Spirit of Boston to see the tall ships.
- Restaurant trip – Outing to Bisuteki Tokyo Japanese Steakhouse June 21.
- Charlesgate yacht club - June 27 – this is a rescheduled trip, originally scheduled for June 6

- Dance Party – Our theme party is a Dance Party with DJ Jimmy Caserto June 29.

North Cambridge Senior Center (NCSC) - Alicia Johnson.

- Ms. Johnson not present. No report.

Client Services – Vincent McCarthy

- The Massachusetts bar Association had a presentation on Estate Planning June 13.
- Maryellen McEleney is doing very well and is scheduled for SHINE training June 6 - July 8.
- Fan Program – The Council on Aging has recently purchased 40 fans (20 box fans and 20 table top fans) which will be available for low income Cambridge seniors who are in need of a fan. Interested seniors can apply in Council on Aging office.
- Cambridge Housing Authority Elderly/Disabled Site Based waitlists opening initial lottery period begins July 5th Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) will be accepting online pre-applications for the Elderly/Disabled Site Based Waitlists. The lottery period will begin July 5th and end July 31st, 2017

New Business

- Lois Carra has worked with Porter Square Books on a possible consignment of a watercolor calendar. The paintings are a product of NCSC watercolor class members. North Cambridge Savings bank is another possible sponsor. She is continuing to seek more sponsorship.
- ED will be providing Ms. Carra with a letter to assist with sponsorship solicitations.
- All donations will be deposited into the Friends account.
- Board authorized (Director Dalton made the motion and Director Chisholm seconded) ED to communicate to the Friends the intent of this fundraiser to be made through the Friends.

Old Business

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 @ 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Castagna and Susan Pacheco.