

Minutes of COA Board Meeting March 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, 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 Mary Ann Dalton to accept the minutes of February 12, 2019 meeting. Second by Lois Carra. Minutes approved.

Executive Director – Susan Pacheco

- LGBT Training on 2/27/19 – “A Caring Response for LGBT Clients: Cultural Competency Training” went very well. All COA Staff; COA Board members; CASCAP Service Coordinators; Cambridge Housing Building Managers; Cambridge Multi-Service Center staff and Elder Advocate – Transition House were in attendance.
- Middlesex DA Ryan presented on 2/28/19 on Winter Scams. Well attended. Mayor McGovern also attended.
- Mayor McGovern attended Senior Center Town Meeting on 3/7/19. The Mayor spoke about several issues facing Cambridge residents: zoning overlay; tree ordinance; snow removal.
- NCSC update – move back date not yet determined. Lease/Rent update: lease terminates on 3/31/19. Current rent of \$1,090/month will continue 4/1-6/30/19. Rent will increase to \$2,000/month starting 7/1/19.

Citywide Senior Center – Emma Watkins

- Lunch and Learn guest will be Dr. Max Goodson on March 12.
- March 14 our health and wellness presentation will be a talk on Oral Health with Dr. Caleb Tam.
- March 20 we will have an outing to the Greek Corner for lunch
- Judge Thomas F. McGuire Jr. is an associate justice for the Massachusetts Superior Courts. The Judge will be our guest during National Judicial Outreach on March 28.
- We now have a grant allowing the Art of Dance program to continue.

North Cambridge Senior Center (NCSC) - Alicia Johnson

- North Cambridge is waiting until April for re-opening. Work still needs to be done on the Kitchen cabinets and countertops.
- Adult children continue to request activities for their parents.
- March 13 will be St. Patrick’s luncheon.
- Alicia, Vincent and Emma plan to participate in Parking Day on September 27. A possible activity might be Pet Therapy.

Client Services – Vincent McCarthy

- Vincent spoke about a presentation that he attended on Go Go Grandparent. A transportation service that assists seniors in accessing Uber/Lyft.
- Cambridge Health Alliance is putting together a brochure on Senior Biking “A Guide To Cycling in Cambridge for Seniors”. They have a draft of the brochure and would like input from seniors. CHA will be here with the draft brochure on March 21 from and would like feedback from seniors.
- Healing & Feeling – Support Through Loss the group is going well.

- Film & Discussion March 26 – Love Simon
- We are collaborating with SCES for an LGBT Intergenerational Film Viewing and Discussion March 26 the film is Pariah.
- Cambridge Employment Program will do a presentation at Senior Center on Tuesday, March 26.

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

New Business

- Lily Owyang does not see a problem reviewing the fee structure for classes. Especially since the city subsidizes all activities. Currently all classes in North Cambridge are \$3 at 806 \$2 - \$3.
- Councilor E. Denise Simmons Senior Advisory Council members raised questions and were brought forth to the ED by Director Hines. ED will address these issues with Councilor Simmons and report back to the Board. Areas of concern:
 1. YMCA pass program. Distribution policy. Appears that some members receive passes daily.
 2. Bus stop is a concern. Not clear of snow and ice.
 3. Participants lining outside of building prior to opening, as early as 8:00. Is there a way of addressing this?

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 9 @ 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Castagna and Susan Pacheco.