

Minutes of Board Meeting of November 4, 2013

Board Members Present: Ethel Ampey, Elizabeth Cadigan, Lois Carra, William Cobham, Miranda Heibel, Pearl Hines, Benjamin Horner, Ismail Laher, and Jeanne Ryde

Absent: Kenneth Hebert, and Carole Feeney-Withrow

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

Meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by President Cobham

1. Review/acceptance of October 7, 2013 meetings

President Cobham requested approval of minutes of the September meeting. Ethel Ampey made a motion to accept minutes. Minutes unanimously approved.

2. Reports

North Cambridge Senior Center

- Vincent congratulated Alicia Johnson as the new Director of North Cambridge Senior Center.
- Activities this month include the Changes in Medicare Forum 11/12, Fall Bazaar 11/16, and Day of Beauty At Somerville High 11/21
- The window posters at 2050 are a big hit. Thanks to Lisa for her help.

Client Services

- Vincent attended training on Medicare updates and plans future training in "Medicare 101".
- Alicia will host 2 Changes in Medicare Forums 11/5 1:00 - 3:00pm, 806 Mass. Ave. and 11/12 12:30 – 1:30pm, 2050 Mass. Ave.
- The Snow Exemption list has been updated along with the residential plowing shoveling list. Applications for students for a private pay shoveling list have been sent out.
- Vincent taught his first official session of taxi school in October and will be attending on a regular basis from now on.

COA Executive Director

- Emma, Bill and Ethel joined Susan in welcoming Alicia, an overwhelming choice for Director of North Cambridge.
- Ellen Semonoff has redesigned the leadership team during DHSP's transition. There will be 3 assistant directors for Childcare Youth, Adult, and Administration. Janice Alger is responsible for Fiscal and HR. Sue Walsh is responsible for Adult services which include COA, CLC, Multiservice Center and OWD. Michelle Farnum is responsible for Child & Youth Programs.
- DHSP leadership is working on Emergency Preparedness. After Sandy, the Central Sq. blackout, and the Boston Marathon Bombing and lock down, the question of who is "essential personnel" is being discussed. When the T is down, should we be open? Key personnel will attend initial Emergency Preparedness training. From Domestic Violence to Armed Intruder and Shelter in Place, terms Elizabeth pointed out were not well known a year ago. Reverse 911 is a voluntary notification and registry.
- There is training in Emergency Preparedness for the Disabled Community on 11/6.
- Pearl asked how do we currently know who is in the building? Susan responded there is a plan to get My Senior Center software to track participation. Currently we have participants sign in. At 2050 people are registered already. At SCES a vulnerable client list is created during their intake assessment.

- The MBTA has decided against the elimination of routes and bus stops that would have affected Cambridge in the Larchwood Mt Auburn area.

Citywide Senior Center

- Emma considers the Citywide Senior Center as a place to raise spirits. Programming this month includes: Harvest cooking based on the Mediterranean diet on 11/4; a bake sale during the election when programming is cancelled and a Facebook class on 11/6. Dr. Conant returns for his lunchtime chat, he is also very responsive to questions one on one for personal information.
- The First Thursday writing group will submit their work to a future Newslines issue.
- Other programming this month: Native American Pottery, continuation of the Men's Workshop, Changes in Medicare Forum on 11/5, Mexican fusion cooking, and the third year of Mysteries of the Cosmos.
- Future programs we wish to present are an African dance class and a speaker series.

3. New Business

- Ethel remembered an original participant Nellie Partridge who passed away. From 2050 Louise Haggerty and Lt. Stevens whose families requested donations to North Cambridge Senior Center in memory of their loved ones.
- Focus in the New Year: More outreach into the community by the COA and the Senior Centers. Some participants have declined, which is part of life and the information is welcome.
- Lois has participated in a multi-generational dance project with performance and workshops, and would like to bring that program here.
- Pearl would like to thank the staff for their support of Qi Gong, keeping the class going when the instructor was absent.

4. Old Business none

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 9, 2013 @ 11:00 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Castagna