

Council on Aging Board Meeting – Thursday, April 11, 2019

Call to order – 5:40pm

Attendance: Board Members: JD Miller, Chair, Leslie James, Helen Jablonski, Lucille Sorrentino, Henry Yeh, and Janice Desmond. Also in attendance were Jenny Gerbis, Senior Center Outreach Coordinator, Elaine Schembari, liaison to FOSS, Joan Powers, liaison to South Shore Elder Services, Sean Harris from BOS, and Gordon Price, liaison to Campaign Committee. Absent were Janice Lindblom, Caitlin Coyle, and Linda Hayes, Senior Center Director.

The minutes for the March 14, 2019 meeting were approved by the Board with a few minor edits. JD Miller noted that the COA vote to fully support the Recreation Department's new fields project was communicated verbally and not by a formal letter.

Director's Report:

1. Program Updates:

- Next SOUPER Tuesday to be held on 4/16 at 11:30AM. This will be the 4th offering of this program. There has been limited interest and Linda is unsure if she will continue the program.
- Next Memory Training Workshop will begin on 4/25 and run for 4 weeks.
- Intergenerational Dinner & Game night was held on 3/25 with about 20 attendees including students and night ended with a fun group game of Left, Right, Center.
- The St. Patrick's Day Parade and Senior Center float was a great success. There was a significant effort put into this by both volunteers and staff. Lucille Sorrentino, Helen Jablonski, Pauline Souther and Jeanne Fernandes rode the float and there were several walkers including Linda. 300 'Senior Strong' postcards were given out which included dates of the Information Sessions for the new Senior Center development. Sean Harris supplied the truck and driver for the float.
- New Parkinson's support group has been meeting monthly and will meet again on Tuesday, 4/16.
- Senior Center sponsored the Red Sox Trophy presentation on April 3rd. 450 people of all ages came to view and all had their picture taken with the trophy. Popcorn and hot dogs were served. A very successful event.
- An intergenerational Pickleball Event with the Scituate High School students and seniors will be held at the High School for the second time. This was initiated by the High School Physical Ed staff and will be held on 5/1 at 1:30 PM. Sign-up will be welcome for any interested.
- Health Fair to be held on Thursday 5/2 at 10AM at St. Mary's Hall.

2. Senior Center Project:

- On 3/18, Linda gave an informational presentation to the Gates Middle School PTO.
- On 3/20, Linda gave a similar presentation to the Scituate Rotary group.
- Linda also attended the Library Foundation meeting with Gordon Price.
- The COA sponsored 3 public information sessions in March. The 1st session had approximately 50 attendees, the 2nd session 35 attendees, the 3rd session 90 attendees. There is time to schedule an additional 1 or 2 session before the 5/13 town meeting.

- Linda attended a joint meeting for Town Department Heads and Public Safety personnel on 3/29 along with OPM, Architect and engineers to inform and discuss any concerns they had around the new center plan and traffic plan outlined.
 - On 4/1 the Shelter Commission meeting was attended by Linda and Steve Kirby. Discussion of using the new Senior Center as a backup shelter. A shower is required for this to take place and the plan has been to have plumbing available for this.
 - On 4/9 a Public Building Commission meeting was held where both the architect and OPM presented the final estimates for the cost of the new center. These were detailed estimates and were fully supported by the Public Building Commission.
3. General/Office:
- Linda has submitted a grant request to SEF for a monthly art education program.
 - Work has continued on a Senior Center brochure and Volunteer Guide with the help of volunteers.
 - The Age Friendly Steering Committee meeting was held on February 19th. No activity since then and new meeting date needs to be set. Caitlin Coyle is submitting a grant request to AARP for their 2019 Community Challenge Grant.
 - Jenny Gerbis presented the results of the ongoing Outreach programs and Transportation for the COA. Jenny had several questions from the attendees and walked the group through her role in assisting with the various outreach requests. She works as a conduit for providing a variety of services.

Liaison Reports:

1. Joan Powers update:
 - Meeting of SSES was held on 4/2. Audit highlights were presented including a report on opiate counseling and a review of the prescription of opiates.
 - Anchor pilot to navigate care in homes with recurring risks. This is a highly focused care management program and focuses on elders with behavioral health needs.
 - The monthly community dinner at St. Luke's is scheduled for 4/28 at 5PM. This is the Sunday after Easter and usually 40-60 people attend.
2. Elaine Schembari's update:
 - Several members are working on the newly formed Build a Campus committee.
 - The annual Spaghetti dinner was held on 4/6 at a Congregational Church and was a big success. More financially successful this year than last.
 - Members are actively working on the annual golf event which is scheduled for Friday, 6/14. Good success so far on sponsorships.
3. Sean Harris, BOS update:
 - Sean stated that the BOS continue to support the new senior center project and will attend any additional information sessions that are scheduled.
 - Sean talked about a citizen at town meeting that raised the issue of lack of maintenance on the existing senior center and the Harbor community building. Sean was concerned that it was exaggerated that they are not maintained. Both buildings have a limited life span.

Other - Build a Campus Project Steering Committee:

- Gordon Price, former Council on Aging Board member, discussed the Build a Campus project. He is working with others and has formed a not for profit ballot committee with a Tax EIN.

- Gordon has made many appearances at town meetings and gatherings to provide information on the Community Center Campus project that will include the new senior center. He has attended the COA sponsored information sessions, the men's breakfast, So Shore Peer recovery, the World Series trophy event, the Library Athletic field presentation, the Chamber of Commerce and Cushing School council and PTO. He is scheduled to meet with representatives from the other 3 elementary school PTOs as well. Informational cards have been handed out and will be handed out as well as answering any questions. Window signs will be put up around the Harbor, Greenbush and North Scituate business areas.
- There is a plan for a Capital campaign fund raising in place once the May Town Meeting and May vote take place and the funding is approved for the new campus.
- Pins, signs and handouts have been printed to distribute and have been distributed.
- Gordon has found that many town people have minimal knowledge of the project and need information to make an informed decision.
- Representatives will be at the landfill both Saturday and Sunday recycling area to provide information.
- Plan in place to present at Rotary and the Little People Program through Recreation program.
- A phone campaign is being organized and Gordon plans to attend the upcoming Capital Planning Committee meeting as well as the Joint Advisory Committee meeting.
- Gordon believes the Campus project has good support from the Advisory committee. There is a question of support from the Capital Planning Committee due to the empty Gates Building.

COA Board meeting was adjourned at 7PM.