

Wellesley Council on Aging Board Meeting
March 23, 2015

Attending: Voting Members: Sandy Budson, Mary Dummer, Susan Kagan Lange, Diane Lapon, Sister Alice McCourt, William Murphy, Sheila Nugent, Shirley Quinn, John Schuler
Associate Members: Mary Bowers, Jean Boyle, Diane Campbell, Lisa Heyison, Judy Keefe. Jerry Kelley, Joanne Kilsdonk, Dianne Sullivan, Gayle Thieme, Director of Senior Services.
Absent: Linda Cohen, John Cross, Penelope Lawrence, Miguel Lessing, Frederick Wright.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, John Schuler, at 7:00 p.m. in Henderson Hall of the Wellesley Community Center.

Citizen Speak: Sheila Nugent announced that the Wellesley Hills Women's Club, an organization that raises money for four-year college scholarships for Wellesley High School seniors, is celebrating their 125th anniversary with a lecture by Sylvia Hahn, "Tales from Hungary." Sheila invited the COA to co-sponsor the lecture which is to be held on October 7 with the COA sharing the \$100 fee. It was agreed that this was a good idea and something the COA should do more of. The invitation was accepted by a unanimous vote.

The minutes of the February 23, 2015 meeting were approved.

COA Staff Reports: Staff reports are attached to these minutes and on file. John Schuler commented that there has been a great improvement in numbers in the lunch program thanks to the arrangement with La Riviera. There are also more people using the bus service. With the retirement of Lois Camberg as of June 30, the bus service will merge on July 1 with the Volunteer Drivers Program.

Gayle Thieme was complimented on the slide show prepared for the Welcoming Day Program. It will be shown again at the meeting with the new members of the BOS on March 25 and sent to members of the Board by email.

Gayle Thieme added the following to staff reports::

- Linda Clifford will be happy to come to the April or May meeting
- Wellesley Police have agreed to cosponsor the COA bbq in July or August because we no longer partner with Springwell for the congregate meal site.
- There has been an increase in subscriptions to the email blast
- Board meeting minutes are appearing on our home page back to 2012
- The Executive Service Corps of New England contacted the Director to invite the COA to cosponsor two new programs; in the fall “Retirement Planning”(focus on finances) and in the spring, “Discover your Encore” (focus on new careers). ESC has submitted a grant application to The Fund for Wellesley. Gayle Thieme has provided a letter of support for this application.
- The first random drug testing for bus drivers went well.

Treasurer’s Report: In the absence of Miguel, John Schuler reported on the general budget of the Town as it prepared for Town Meeting 3/30 and the implications for the COA, as follows:

Hans Larsen explained to aTown interdepartmental meeting that there has been no decision on how to meet a balanced budget for Town Meeting.

The Town will have difficulty in meeting unexpected expenses in health and medical benefits for employees which will rise 9% to 10% instead of the expected 5%. There has been an overspending

in snow plowing; the school department is pressing to exceed earlier guidelines for preliminary budgets; the result is a shortfall of \$1,150,000. This means that there will be a general tightening of budgets to avoid higher taxes. The COA might have to think of prioritizing. For the moment the COA will get the budget increase we were promised. There is a question about \$20,000 in benefits for a new employee, but it appears this fee is going to be waived. Because of the shortfall and a lack of data there is uncertainty as of this date that the budget will be ready for TM nor does the Advisory Committee know what its position will be.

The Director requested that she be given authorization to use \$1200 from the general gift fund to be used as follows: \$1000 be used to support programs until June 30 and \$200 to cover postage costs for the survey of COA bus riders. The authorization was granted by a unanimous voted.

Transportation Committee Update

Dianne Sullivan, chair of the Transportation Committee, reported that there were a total of 7155 vehicle miles and 23 operating days for the COA bus during FY 2015. Expenses total \$3,204.83 for the same period. (Detailed report on file with 3/23 minutes).

Looking to the future-

- the committee will initiate a satisfaction survey to current riders in April
- the volunteer drivers program will be combined with the COA bus program starting July 1, 2015
- there may be change in the transportation coordinator position
- Two members of the committee along with Gayle Thieme are interviewing candidates for the on-call driver position with April 6, 2015 as the deadline applicants.

- The COA may contract with Veterans Taxi to provide emergency medical appointment transportation
- Consider requiring a fee for the special bus trips.

The discussion centered on whether there should be some fees for some trips or recommended donations. It was decided to defer any action until Dianne Sullivan and Gayle come to the next board meeting with a recommendation based on an analysis of bus use.

Board Reorganization Task Force

In the absence of Miguel Lessing, Chair of the Task Force, Sandy Budson stated that members of the task force (Miguel Lessing, Sandy Budson, Jerry Kelley and Shirley Quinn) had started working on a report dealing with board and committee reorganization and structure to be presented at the April board meeting.

Policies and Procedures Committee

The Chair, Jerry Kelley, reports that work is underway reviewing various sources of policies and procedures in use in the Town, State, and other COA's. When the task of updating the current COA policies and procedures is complete, it will be presented to the Board with a suggested 3-month period for review.

Legislative/Advocacy Committee

Jerry Kelley, Chair, and member Susan Kagan Lange are in the process of rejuvenating this committee. Based on their work they plan to advocate as a committee and board, and to reach out to COA members to engage our legislators regarding important bills relevant to the work of the COA.

Activities Committee

Chair, Sheila Nugent, announced that the COA annual evening social, this year called "Saturday Night Fevah" is all set as to entertainment, location, etc. (May 9, Alumnae Hall, Wellesley College) What is needed is volunteers. A sign-up sheet was circulated and Lorraine Clough, COA Volunteer Coordinator, is recruiting volunteers.

Update on Tolles Parsons Center

John Schuler reported that the suit by the BOS against the Town Planning Board remains undecided. Hans Larsen, Executive Director of General Government Services of the Town of Wellesley, is optimistic about the outcome for the future of the COA and the Tolles Parsons Center. It is possible that the capital expenditure item for construction will be on the ATM warrant for FY 2017.

Further Business

It was suggested that in future 15 minutes be added to the scheduled time for board meetings inasmuch as meetings usually run beyond the allotted time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted

Shirley Quinn, Secretary

Corrections to Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes of
March 23, 2015

1. Joellen Toussaint should be listed as Absent.
2. The first paragraph of the Transportation Committee Update should read:

“Dianne Sullivan, chair of the Transportation Committee, reported that there were a total of 7155 vehicle miles driven and 142 week days operated by the COA bus during FY 2015. Expenses total \$3,204.83 for the same period.”