

Wellesley Council on Aging Board Meeting  
February 4, 2013

Attending: Bill Murphy, Mary Bowers, Mary Dummer, Joanne Kilsdonk, Susan Kagan Lange, Gayle Thieme, Anne Marie Gross, Harriet S. Warshaw, Joellen Toussaint, Miguel Lessing, Linda Cohen, Sheila Nugent, Tim Driver, Dona Kemp, Heather Sawitsky, Todd Himstead, Jean Boyle, Phil Laughlin, Sister Alice M. McCourt

Absent: Eleanor Sullivan, Andrew Pernokas, Stanley G. Hodges, Sandy Budson, Diane Lapon, John G. Schuler, Dianne Sullivan

Susan Kagan Lange, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There was no Citizen Speak and the Secretary's Report was accepted with no discussion.

Susan Kagan Lange welcomed the Tolles Parsons Center Review Committee by thanking them for coming and gave a short composite of the skills, professional background and personal expertise of the COA Board as bios of the Committee had been sent out. She then turned the meeting over to Heather Sawitsky to share the research/review that the Committee had done since they had been appointed by the Board of Selectmen in December.

Heather began by thanking Gayle Thieme for all the ground work/history she had provided. The Committee had met every week and had also visited some Senior Centers as well as met with other Departments in the Town and visited the AL site. Federal regulations, best practices, meetings with folks who opposed the plan, discussion and research around sending out a survey were shared as part of the process and mandate of the Committee.

Three specific issues were raised and seen as both challenges for the Board as well as a suggestion that further discussion may be needed to create new possibilities. The AL site has questions of size, parking, traffic, car pooling, use of Town vans and a need to accommodate St. Paul's Parish needs. The design of the "hub and spoke" infers collaborating/co-sponsoring programming with existing departments as well as a more unified Town calendar. It could also be that other departments would use COA space for after hour/weekend programs and the issue of space for large gatherings came up. The third issue was fundraising and several creative possibilities were suggested: thrift and gift shop, re-cycling, green house, bottle collection, pay for lunch, an arm like Friends and foundations/grants.

Some interaction happened, the Committee was thanked and this part of the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Following a break, the Board convened again at 8:40 PM and a short feedback discussion was held with stated gratitude for all the work the Committee had done. The Board agreed that the Committee was behind a new Senior Center 100%!

Miguel Lessing shared reflections on the Pool Survey both verbally and in writing.

The Public Relations/Communications Committee stated that the Dixie Diehards Event was confirmed for May 3. An invitation will be in Highlights and all necessary details will be found there. It was stated that this is not a fundraiser but a “funraiser” and that all the Board members who had volunteered to help would be contacted personally before the event.

The Nominating Committee reported that they are working on finding new Board members.

Harriet Warshaw again defined/refined the concept of the “hub and spokes” for the new Senior Center and all understood and agreed to the concept.

There was a reminder for the Baby Shower on February 22 at the COA.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

The next Council on Aging Board meeting will be on March 4, 2013 at the Wellesley Community Center at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Sister Alice M. McCourt, SND