

Wellesley Council on Aging Board Meeting
September 10, 2012

Attending: Stanley G. Hodges, Sandra Budson, Gayle Thieme, Susan Kagan Lange, Harriet Warshaw, Mary Bowers, Bill Murphy, Joanne Kilsdonk, Joellen Toussaint, Sheila Nugent, Mary Dummer, Dianne Sullivan, John G. Schuler, Sister Alice M. McCourt

Absent: Eleanor Sullivan, Andrew Pernokas, Linda Cohen, Miguel Lessing, Diane Lapon

Susan Kagan Lange, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and announced that there would be a Treasurer's Report although it did not appear on the agenda. She then encouraged all members of the Board to give a short introduction of themselves as it was our first coming together as a Board this year. Introductions followed.

Stanley Hodges gave a special thank you during Citizen Speak to all who had initiated, planned and carried out the Social in August for members of the Board, COA staff and Guests. A strong affirmation resounded from all present.

The Secretary's Report was accepted as written.

The Treasurer's Report was given out and any questions/explanations were entertained by Gayle in lieu of Diane's absence. Special mention was made of the low amount in the Gift Account and the need to spend time looking at how monies could be raised and/or cost reduced in the area of Transportation.

Remarks of the Chair followed with the lead point being the Evening and Weekend Lecture Series which is being co-sponsored by the COA and the Library. A flyer was passed out highlighting the seminars already in place for 2012-2013. Issues such as marketing, charring, transportation and refreshments were discussed as well as future programs and how these offerings interacted with the regular monthly Activity Calendar. A special COA golf day was announced as well as the formation of an intergenerational band. Two other issues were raised for discussion: long range planning and a way to raise and maintain a separate donation fund for Board activities that would not come under the regular budget. This last issue was to be brought back at the next Board meeting for more discussion.

The Remarks of the Director followed with an emphasis on transportation but to be expanded upon by the Transportation Committee. Gayle also spoke to the new phone system, new tv, MCOA Conference, Volunteer Appreciation Event, Volunteer Fair and the request via COA Staff to change the Holiday schedule. There was a unanimous vote that November 23, December 24 and December 31 would be taken as vacation time this year and the COA would be closed. Gayle also spoke to the TOP survey, written report and the on-going grant to Springwell for this year being worked on. The annual report for EOEA is past due but being worked on and the Town report is sent in. The Volunteer Drivers Program requested that there be a pilot program initiated for expanding the hours to before 9 and after 4 as well as on weekends and this was agreed to by a unanimous

vote as a three month pilot program. Written staff reports were mailed with agenda and minutes.

Committee Reports followed with Standing Committees first. There were no reports from Demographics and Needs Assessment, Finance, Legislative and Advocacy and Membership/Nominating. Mary Dummer gave the Public Relations/Communications Committee report saying that they did not meet in the summer, they would work with Ilene Sharp the Activity Coordinator and not overlap with her programs and that they were going to be brainstorming a plan of events at a meeting in September.

Harriet Warshaw reported for the COA/BOS Senior Center Working Group and stated that they were going to be expanding their group and reviewing the vision, mission and design of the future senior center. A call will go out via email to appear when this issue will come up in the September Board of Selectman agenda. Harriet also spoke to the Friends Committee and reaffirmed that ethically the COA Board is separate from Friends and that a new committee of three has been named to take on the role of completing the non-profit status which entails having named officers. This work is being done pro bono by Bill DeVasher, Barbara Peacock-Coady, Ilissa Povich and Nancy Samiljan.

The 900 Worcester Street Committee report was passed out as Miguel Lessing was not able to be present.

There was no Policies and Procedures Committee report.

Susan Kagan Lange gave the Springwell report which confirmed the move to a new site and the on-going process for a new executive director.

Dianne Sullivan gave the Transportation Report beginning with the names of those who are on the committee. Gayle gave out the COA bus stats and the need for more research and monies was spoken to at length. Many creative ideas/solutions were brainstormed by the Board and will be agenda for the committee. Dianne and Gayle stated that they are going to have a site visit with M&L and continue to get relative info from other COA's as to how they handle transportation. Encouragement was given to Board members to offer names of townfolk who might be added to the committee.

Susan stated that she, Gayle and Mary Dummer had met with Community Center staff.

John Schuler reported for the Wellesley Housing Authority as he is the liaison and he recommended that there be an invitation to/for the Commissioner to be on the Board as associate member since there are so many seniors living in the Housing sites.

A discussion of the Parallel Process Alternatives followed with reinforcement of the article in the Townsman explaining this concept. There is a common view by the Board that the AL site continues to be what we are standing by for the future senior center.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

The next Council on Aging Board meeting will be on October 15, 2012 at the Wellesley Community Center.

Respectfully submitted by
Sister Alice M. McCourt, SND