

Wellesley Council on Aging Board Meeting
April 28, 2014

Attending: Voting Members: Sandra Budson, Mary Dummer, Diane Lapon, Susan Kagan-Lange, Miguel Lessing, Sr. Alice McCourt, Bill Murphy, Sheila Nugent, John Schuler, Dianne Sullivan and Joellen Toussaint. Associate Members: Mary Bowers, Joanne Kilsdonk, Penny Lawrence, Shirley Quinn and Director of Senior Services Gayle Thieme. Absent: Linda Cohen, Stanley Hodges, Jack Cross, Judy Keefe, Eleanor Sullivan, Richard TenEyck and Harriet Warshaw.

John Schuler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM at the Senior Room of the Wellesley Community Center.

No citizen used the opportunity under the Citizen Speak section.

With a motion from Joellen Toussaint, seconded by Bill Murphy, a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 24, 2014 Board Meeting was unanimously agreed.

The Staff reports elicited the suggestion of expanding the Transportation Options Program (TOP) information to medical offices to include other materials, as well as it being expanded to sites such as senior committees at religious entities.

Gayle Thieme described a) possible options to enrich the congregate dining experience including offering a more varied selection of food providers (diners average six and vary from two to twelve); Gayle asked the Board for volunteers to help her explore these options; b) opportunities to further expand the number of the newsletters' color pages, and c) the Friends of COA agreement to help fund improvements in the coffee service, the purchase of an outdoor picnic table, availability of a phone language translation service, a portable copier for client visits by the Health and Social Services Coordinator, and to cover the cost of last-minute seniors' transportation.

The Membership/Nominating Committee's Sandy Budson described recommendations for the Board's structure, based on State recommendations and experience:

The Board unanimously adopted a motion offered by Miguel Lessing and seconded by Diane Lapon to convey emeritus status to Stanley Hodges and Eleanor Sullivan for their many years of service and outstanding contributions to the Board of the Wellesley Council on Aging and further invite them to the June meeting where they will be honored when this status is conferred upon them. The Emeritus status allows attendance to board meetings, engaging in all discussions but does not give voting privileges;

The Board voted ten to zero to expand the number of voting Board members from eleven to thirteen on a motion from Joellen Toussaint and a second by Sheila Nugent. This action allows Associate Board members to become voting members sooner and will require a bylaw change;

The a) establishment of staggered three-year terms (and up to two contiguous terms) for voting Board members and b) the creation of an Advisory board membership category for voting members that complete two terms were tabled with the understanding that they will be voted on at the May meeting. Advisory members will have all rights and privileges of a Board member except voting. These actions are intended to generate a more dynamic board.

Miguel Lessing offered to clarify with Town Council Al Robinson and Hans Larsen some outstanding details of the proposed COA bus transportation contract between the Town and the MWRTA. Annual Town Meeting (ATM) approved this change in the COA's transportation model.

John Schuler described the opportunity for the Town to purchase the abutting lot at 494 Washington St. ATM overwhelmingly approved the investment and it is now up for a town-wide vote on May 20.

A revised Private Home Health Agency Inquiry Procedure was approved as presented to the attendees.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on May 19 at the Wellesley Community Center.

Presented by

Miguel Lessing, Secretary