DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2017

Present: Chairman Leanne Jasset, Sherri Hannigan, Geraldine Pacheco, Diane Barry Preston, Maureen Teti, Sandra Tocman, HESSCO Representative Anne Heller, Parks and Recreation Representative Charles (Chuck) Dello Iacono, COA Director Sheila Pransky

Meeting called to order at 5:01 PM.

Absent: Marie-Louise Kehoe, Russ Poole

Public Discussion: None

Minutes: Sandy made a motion, seconded by Diane, to accept the June minutes. (There was no meeting in July.) So voted. Geri Pacheco voted present as she did not attend the June meeting.

Chairman Leanne Jasset introduced and welcomed Chuck Dello Iacono as the Parks and Recreation Representative to the Board.

Director's Report:

* There have been a number of day trips this summer. Trips to Eataly, Plymouth, and the Regal Theater have been quite successful.
* We are actively recruiting new van drivers because of the increase in senior trips. We need an additional part-time driver plus a backup driver. There has also been discussion with the Town Financial Managers to include a request for a 20 passenger van in the capital request budget.
* New events and programs are being developed for the fall. We may need to use offsite locations until the new center is ready for occupancy.
* New yoga, Tai Chi, and strength classes t the Dolan Center along with a water aerobics program in conjunction with the Park and Recreation Department at the town pool have replaced the Dedham Health and Athletic Center classes.
* Stakeholder focus groups are ongoing. Because of the small number of attendees, we may need to consider an additional day group to gather enough information from this cohort.
* We have not received many naming suggestions for the new center. The naming of each room or donated item has been discussed.
* A program book for the grand opening with well wishes and ads being sold to raise money will be discussed with the Friends as the group is the fundraising entity for the COA. We are hopeful the Friends of the Council on Aging will be revitalized as the long awaited senior center becomes a reality.
* The formal name for the renovated building is being discussed. There will be a sign at the front of the building with an additional sign at the entrance to the senior center. The wording on each sign has yet to be determined.
* We are exploring breakfast and lunch options in the new center. Breakfast items would be available daily and be mostly cold pastries and similar choices. We are hoping to have a number of lunch options, twice weekly to start, and if successful expand the program.
* We welcome new ideas and suggestions as we prepare for our move to our new location.
* Representative Paul McMurtry invited Seniors from the Dedham and Westwood Councils on Aging to the Dedham Square Community Theater where the movie Some Like It Hot will be shown. Coffee and popcorn will be served and restaurants are being arranged for lunch in the Square.

HESSCO:

* No meeting in August.
* There will be public hearing on a draft plan for aging at the Norwood COA on the 31st of August. The plan will address aging from 2018-2021 and will be available for review at HESSCO.

New Business:

* There was some discussion on the article in the New York Times about the experience of a local family trying to negotiate their way through the high costs of long term care. Further discussion will follow.
* The annual VFW Senior Barbecue will celebrate its 42nd anniversary at the end of August.
* On the 19th of September there will be a meeting at the COA for anyone who would like to become a volunteer.

Old Business:

* Livable Dedham received the Tufts Health Plan Grant. It will pay for a part time project coordinator and the strategic plan being done by UMASS Boston.
* The new project coordinator is Beth Rouleau. She has a Masters in Gerontonogy and extensive expertise in age friendly environments. Enthusiastic and creative, she is also the chairman of the Hingham COA. Her office will be on the 4th floor when the Town Hall/Senior Center opens. Until that time there may be space in the Dolan Center.
* In the fall there will be a forum on housing and support services for aging in place.
* There may also be a volunteer hub on the Livable Dedham website where people can view volunteer opportunities
* Chuck spoke of a safe home project through town departments Sheila was involved in a similar program in Norwood. Further discussion will follow.

Motion made by Geri, seconded Sandy, to adjourn. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM.