

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

December 21, 2016

Attendance: Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Karen Fischer, Marsha Frankel, Susan Granoff, Renny Harrigan, Susan Krinsky, Alberta Lipson, Elenore Parker, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Molly Turlish, Matt Weiss; guest: Peter Ames

Introductions. Renny Harrigan from the Repair and Referral committee was attending her first meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

Professional Service Providers Group. Because no one in the group is stepping forward to keeping it going, PSPG is now considered dormant. It will no longer be listed on the website or included in lists of committees. The group was established to provide networking opportunities for representatives of businesses located in Brookline that serve people 60+ and it has served its purpose. Frank and/or Molly will encourage current members of the group to join an active BrooklineCAN committee. The dormancy of PSPG prompts us to activate the business membership program approved almost a year ago. The membership committee will revisit the approved program and bring it back to the Steering Committee.

Generation to Generation (Gen2Gen). Encore Boston Network (EBN) has recently launched this initiative to connect adults 50+ to opportunities to work with children and youth. Positions might be volunteer roles, paid, or include a stipend. After Molly attended the launch event, Rita Badami met with Frank, Alberta, and Molly to explore next steps. Rita and Alberta will draft a newsletter article announcing new ways to connect with volunteer and paid opportunities, and they will meet with Deirdre Waxman at the Senior Center to discuss how they might work together to expand opportunities for meaningful roles with children and youth. Boston is one of four pilot sites selected by Encore.com.

Future plans for TRIPPS. TRIPPS is just completing its first full year of programming, and a second year has been funded. In January and February, TRIPPS will be applying for third-year funding. . So far, we have determined that TRIPPS works in an area that needs attention, and the director (Kerri Ann Tester) has been terrific, even better than hoped. The number of people who have been served one-on-one has met expectations but the extent of interaction with service recipients has been less than expected. Information about travel options is being widely disseminated. The new manual is extremely useful and inspiring to people who see it and use it. Two suggestions came forward: (1) reaching out to the medical community to provide tools for use when doctors and other medical professionals face a driving cessation conversation, and (2) having the Livable Communities Advocacy Committee (LCAC) follow through on policy issues that TRIPPS identifies. At the end of the demonstration period, we hope that the Massachusetts Councils on Aging will receive funding from MassDOT to coordinate TRIPPS on a statewide basis. The Brookline Council

on Aging and BrooklineCAN will be seeking ways to continue the Brookline effort without grant funds from MassDoT.

Treasurer's Report. As of December 20, fiscal year 2017 is on budget. The past month has seen good results in memberships and a new expense under administration of \$451 for return address labels. Since we last had such labels printed in 2011, we expect the 10,000 we recently bought to last quite a while. We have a reserve of \$17,482.

Committee reports

Repairs and Referrals. Renny is working on creating a mode of operations that will harness the enthusiasm and skills of the committee members.

Community volunteering. Alberta is working to update the database by fixing broken links (in a year's time, many organizations change how the information about their volunteer opportunities is organized and presented). She is recruiting committee members and reaching out to Brookline organizations that use volunteers to let them know about the database.

Membership. Today, we have 349 active members, down from 355 November 16. Since there are many membership renewals this time of year, numbers are volatile. The Membership Committee is planning two initiatives: a mailing in January to former members and to individuals who sign-in at our events for whom we have or can get mailing addresses and an event Thursday, May 18 designed for members and prospective members. The mailing piece for the membership drive is about 85% ready to send to the printer. Meanwhile, the committee is researching missing addresses. The mail piece includes space for a personal note, and several members of the Steering Committee agreed to write notes. Molly will arrange time and space for note writing at the Senior Center either before or after the January 18 meeting of the Steering Committee. She will email everyone as early in January as possible to confirm the time. Plans for the May 18 event are developing, with more information available soon.

Communications. The January issue of the newsletter is in the works. The housing series will continue.

Education. The program on scams planned for January 28 is now a Goddard House activity, not BrooklineCAN. The Reunion Project, sponsored by the Brandeis University Women's Studies Program and involving artist Laura Brody will be displayed at the Senior Center and Goddard House in April and May. The opening reception will be April 20. The Senior Center, Goddard House, and Center Communities were involved in inviting 40 women to participate by having photographs taken and responding to writing prompts. In the spring, a program on creative use of "extra" housing space is planned. Len Fishman will speak. The program will be organized as a workshop with participants sharing information about their interests. We hope to have specialists available to offer information to participants that will help them in developing their plans. No date has yet been set.

Livable community advocacy / Age friendly city. Susan Grannoff reported on issues that the committee is looking at: (1) the coming change in garbage collection, (2) interest in extended on-street parking for visitors, (3) and improved sidewalk lighting. Frank reported that Andy Pappastergion will meet with one or more LCAC representatives in late January on sidewalk lighting issues. As for parking and trash-collection issues, Steering Committee members suggested that LCAC hold a public hearing with a constructive, productive tone. Such a public forum might help enroll participants in joining BrooklineCAN.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 18, at 3:00 PM. Future meetings (third Wednesdays at 3) are February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, and June 21.

Notes prepared by Molly Turlish