

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

June 27, 2018

Attendance: Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Elenore Parker, John Seay, David Trevett, Molly Turlish, Matt Weiss

Annual meeting. Three panelists will participate: Katherine Tallman (Coolidge Corner Theatre), David Leschinsky (Eureka! Puzzles & Games), and Kyle Perzanoski (Brookline Bank, Manager of Coolidge Corner Office); Matt will moderate. Kathy Burnes is collecting accomplishments for the program booklet from committeees, and Matt is taking the lead on preparing the email blast, which John will distribute through Vertical Response.

Recruitment of a Membership Committee Chair. Ruthann said that she and Frank will lead the committee until a new chair is in place. She will attend the next meeting July 9.

Age-Friendly Business campaign. Window stickers are being distributed, and a few are posted. Thirty one businesses have been accepted so far. Frank will work with Ruthann to assure that representatives of those businesses are invited to attend the annual meeting. An example of age unfriendly business practice was shared.

TRIPPS outreach to BrooklineCAN members to take the online transportation survey. The request to invite members was approved.

Community Networks for Aging in Place (CNAP) Conference. Frank, Matt, and Asya Zimbov attended the meeting, June 23 at Brandeis. Kathy Burnes was the keynote speaker. Frank noted several different models of villages and other organizations focused on helping older adults age in place: (1) primarily social and educational, involving a modest number of people in each group (as seen in Lexington, MA); (2) “Help in a Pinch” searched by email (Concord, Lexington, Waltham); and (3) systems of offering assistance, with online and phone linkage of younger older adults volunteering to work with older older adults (as seen in a cluster of Cape Cod towns). No model similar to BrooklineCAN was identified, and we are unique in having a strong link to the Senior Center. Inviting representatives of other programs to our annual meeting was suggested.

JF&CS grant. Funds are being used for a brochure on age-friendly parks in Brookline and to support memberships for residents of public housing, some of whom are participating in LCAC. To assist with increased work required n processing the 50 new memberships, the grant has also covered additional hours for the Membership Assistant.

Treasurer's report. Finances were in the black for the past month, and the fiscal year will end on the positive side, last seen in 2014-15. Reserves equal \$15,816. The report detailed for the first time financial support from Founding Partners of the Helen Kass Memorial Lecture totaling \$1,257.50. Many of their donations are in-kind, and starting with this month's report, cash donations will be listed.

Committee reports

Education. The program honoring Helen Kass was well received, with the account by her daughter of why her parents chose to live in Brookline serving as a testimonial to why we say "Brookline is a great place to live." The fall schedule of programs presented at the May meeting is going forward as planned.

Communications. The summer issue of the newsletter is being distributed today (no separate August issue).

Membership. Today, we have 375 current members and 279 former members. Support from the JF&CS grant has been very helpful in increasing numbers of members. "The Power of Play" member celebration May 10th was quite successful, with 42 attendees and several new and renewed memberships, including one after more than 6 years. The event came in \$170 under budget, and \$42 in donations was collected at the door. Asking non-members to pay \$10 for the event went fairly smoothly. Those paying at the door were provided with an acknowledgment of the donation as they entered. The program and "way finding" were well received.

Livable community advocacy / Age-friendly city. Sara Nelson of the Recreation Department spoke at the June meeting on activities for older adults. A forum with the two candidates for the Massachusetts House seat representing Brookline is planned for August 6, and a possible program with Nesterly home-sharing is being discussed. The new fire chief, John Sullivan, met with the Age-Friendly City committee June 26, and his focus on fire prevention seems to be bringing the fire department into a more collaborative attitude with other Town agencies and groups.

Next meeting. Wednesday, August 15 at 3:00 PM.

Notes prepared by Molly Turlish