

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

March 15, 2017

Attendance: Michaela Barrows, Frank Caro, Marsha Frankel, Elenore Parker, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Molly Turlish, Matt Weiss, Roberta Winitzer; guest-Peter Ames.

BrooklineCAN 2017 (Annual Meeting). The committee chose the theme “Power of Engagement” for the event planned for Thursday, September 14, 5:30-7:30 at the Senior Center. Alice Bonner, Massachusetts Secretary of Elder Affairs has been nominated to be the keynote speaker. Frank has prepared a rough outline of the speech she is being invited to give. Ruthann is handling the invitation. The committee will discuss exhibitors for the expo at the next meeting April 12.

Press release, etc. for the Reunion project. Elenore brought samples of the release, fact sheet, and bio. She also shared two samples of the pairs of photos that will be included in the displays, which open April 3rd at Goddard House and the Senior Center. She requested that we work with her on reaching out to our personal media contacts (print, radio, television, online, etc.) The photographer, Lora Brody, will present the project at receptions April 20 at the Senior Center and April 29 and 30, Goddard House.

Temporary administrative arrangements required due to resignation of Membership Assistant. John will merge letters, Molly will update the database and take on email outreach to members whose renewal dates fall in the following month, and Sonia Wong will print, stuff, and mail letters at the Senior Center. Molly will work to recruit volunteers to assist with stuffing and mailing at Sonia’s request.

Treasurer’s Report. As of March 13, 2017, we have a total reserve of \$18,820. The past month, the largest new expense was the annual payment of \$1,247 to BMS for fiscal management.

Committee reports

Finance. The committee will meet Wednesday, March 29, at 3:00 p.m. in the Senior Center.

Service Referrals and Member Volunteering. Nothing to report.

Membership. Today, we have 358 active members, down 12 from February. The lack of Membership Assistant means that the database will be updated less regularly and thus numbers will be less accurate until the position is filled and the new person trained and operating effectively. Renewal emails and letters will be updated to include the new opportunity to make recurring payments through PayPal. Plans for the May 18 Membership Event are proceeding, “How to Stay Young While Growing Older – and Have Fun Doing It.”

Communications. The monthly newsletter now places the BrooklineCAN items first in each issue, which was praised by members of the Steering Committee, who also complimented the graphic

elements in each issue. John requested sending particulars of events, etc. to him in email for the website.

Education. Three upcoming events are planned: (1) Thursday, April 6, “The Age of Longevity: Reimagining Tomorrow for Our New Long Lives” with authors Rosalind Barnett and Caryl Rivers, 6-7:45 at Goddard House; (2) the Reunion Project reception at the Senior Center, Thursday, April 20, 6-8 pm; and (3) Thursday, June 1, 4-6 pm at the Senior Center, Creative Use of Extra Space in Homes with Len Fishman.

Livable community advocacy / Age friendly city. A candidates forum is planned for April 24, 4-6 at the Senior Center. Candidates for Town-wide office will be invited to speak. All three elected entities are being contested this year, which should lead to lively discussion. The forum is co-sponsored by the Senior Center.

Library director Sarah Slymon will speak about the upgrade of the Coolidge Corner Library at the April 3, 3 p.m. meeting of LCAC. The branch library project is suddenly “hot.” Most controversial is a proposed elevator that would provide improved handicapped access to the meeting room on the lower level.

New Business. Roberta mentioned a series on aging in place sponsored by Temple Israel and organized by BrooklineCAN member Larry Koff. The series runs six Thursdays, 10:30-3:30, starting April 6.

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

Notes prepared by Molly Turlish