

Notes from BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

September 30, 2015

Present: **Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Kathy Burnes, Ruth Seidman, John Seay, Carol Caro, Matt Weiss, Susan Krinsky; Absent: Roberta Winitzer, Molly Turlish, Peter Ames, Karen Fischer, Lance Chapman, Lisa Berger, Michelle LaPointe; Others Present: None**

The meeting commenced at 3:00 P.M. in Room 103 of Brookline Senior Center.

1. The committee selected Matt Weiss as Note Taker for the meeting.
2. JFCS Transition: Kathy Burnes will be replaced by Marsha Frankel representing the Jewish Family Children Services (JFCS) organization. Kathy will remain in a supporting role to BrooklineCAN as needed and available. Kathy was presented with an orchid by the committee in appreciation for her service. Kathy requested and it was decided that Kathy would remain on the distribution list for the BrooklineCAN Steering Committee.
3. Feedback on Annual Meeting:
 - a. Theme, Speaker, Vendors, etc. – Kathy Burnes requested access to pictures taken at the Annual Meeting by Chris Chanyasulkit and Karen Zweig. Frank will collect pictures and send them to John Seay for publication on the web site. It was noted that Governor Dukakis’s speech though excellent was not specific to the event or the audience. A high profile person draws attendees, but speak to their own agenda. The committee agreed to be explicit in the future as to the time for each speaker. Discussion continued as to future program approaches.
 - b. Congestion at Entrance/Membership Recruitment – No solution was suggested.
 - c. Food and Beverages – All agreed the refreshments were excellent.
 - d. Acknowledgements to contributors – Frank agreed to prepare a thank you letter to the Brookline High School band and to send a gift similar to that of the previous year. Ruthann Dobek will identify the gift. Frank also agreed to prepare thank you letters for the donors and vendors without gifts.
 - e. Other – None.
4. Feedback on Brookline Day Table:
 - a. Volunteers – They were excellent and Frank sent them thank you notes.
 - b. Tent – It was decided to spend less than \$300 to buy a tent for next year’s Brookline Day. Frank will follow up.
 - c. Bocce Petition – successful signature collection, but DPW says petition unnecessary. Frank will follow up on bocce for the “Civic Center” with the equipment available for takeout at the main library.

5. Update on Straits:
 - a. Per Ruthann – Kerri Hamburg has accepted the position as lead on STRAITS. Kerri started the BrooklineCAN Twitter account. Transportation is a passion and she is well aware of the issues.
 - b. Funding and Start Date – No word yet on either, but should soon be a contract to sign. Ruthann will follow up.
 - c. Advisory Committee Meeting – The Advisory Committee was enthusiastic about STRAITS.
6. Warrant Article 4:
 - a. Council on Aging and the BrooklineCAN Livable Community Advocacy Committee (LCAC) are endorsing Warrant Article 4.
 - b. Assessor, Gary McCabe, cares about seniors and has pushed the Property Tax Work Off Program.
 - c. Committee discussed publicizing the program in the BrooklineCAN Newsletter, the Senior Center Newsletter, BrooklineCAN Twitter & BrooklineCAN Facebook.
 - d. It was suggested that Gary McCabe might make a good guest on AFC-TV.
7. Treasurer’s Report:
 - a. Provided on separate document. 400 members per Sonya.
8. Committee Reports:
 - a. Education – Dr. Ann Webster of MGH will discuss the mind-Body connection and its role in successful aging at the Main Library on October 19th at 6:30pm.
 - b. Communication – The Newsletter has been distributed. There was an article on STRAITS and each month will be another article on transportation. Article on Dr. Ann Webster session was included. Ruth Seidman thanked Susan Rusk for her Rotary article. Decided that “how to access” AFC-TV programs to the monthly BrooklineCAN AFC-TV article. BrooklineCAN agreed to advertise in the Rotary Breakfast program book in Spring.
 - c. Professional Service Providers – Need volunteers.
 - d. Repair and referrals – Volunteers are needed to make calls. Carol Caro is to call Evelyn to ask for assistance.
 - e. Membership – script to be prepared for BrooklineCAN educational events. Judith Kidd has prepared (?) an “ask me about BrooklineCAN black bag” to bring to all events in support of membership drives. Membership will work with education rather than running its own events. Shirley will explain the STRAITS project to the BrooklineCAN membership committee.
 - f. LCAC and Age Friendly Cities Committee – DPW follow up date for public housing Safe Sidewalks project is set for Town Hall on November 2nd. We need to encourage attendance at that meeting. Success so far is due to Janet Selcer efforts and the great support from public housing. Ann Stitt has said she will continue with the second round of sidewalk reporting and will encourage others. The street lighting project is also active and will collect data and present it to Peter Ditto. Peter Ditto did not appear at the LCAC meeting though he had committed to coming. He said he will be at the next LCAC meeting.

Chris Chanyasulkit indicated to Frank that the street lighting project should perhaps contact Casey Hatchett.

The next meeting will be on October 21st at 3:00 P.M. in Brookline Senior Center.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.