

# BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

## Notes

January 20, 2016

**Attendance:** Peter Ames, Carol Caro, Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Susan Krinsky, Michelle LaPointe, Elenore Parker, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Molly Turlish, Matt Weiss, and Roberta Winitzer.

**Membership for low-income residents.** The Livable Communities Advocacy Committee asked the Membership Committee to consider discounted memberships for residents of public housing developments. The Membership Committee recommended to the Steering Committee offering discounted memberships at \$10 per year to anyone with household income under \$35,000. Molly provided a mocked-up Membership Form showing how the discounted membership would be listed. The proposal was approved with the understanding that all membership payments are donations. The discounted membership for low-income household is a suggested donation. Applicants need not make any donation.

**Date for the 2016 annual meeting.** Set for Thursday, September 15, 5-7 pm, at the Senior Center. Ruthann, Frank, Matt, and Roberta volunteered to serve on the committee. Frank will ask Kathy Burnes and Laura Baber to work on the committee again. Molly will request committee members from the Membership Committee and work on the annual report.

**Treasurer's report.** Income to 1/15/16 totaled \$7,655.00, and expenses, \$6,310.50, leaving a balance of \$1,344.50. Our total available stands at \$22,096.09 since inception. Since the major expenses for the year have been paid, we expect positive results for the rest of the fiscal year (July to June).

**Special projects for FY16.** Ruthann reviewed two possibilities: (1) contributing to the unfunded portions of the TRIPPS program, and (2) funding Barrie Atin to write the second-year application for the grant supporting TRIPPS. Both were approved, with a \$1,000 donation to purpose #1, with expectations that similar funding would be available in future years. Another project was sponsoring a shredding day. Carol has asked Eastern Bank to sponsor the day, and Molly will research the impact on membership of the first shredding day (September 12, 2011) and present the project to the membership committee.

**Education.** The Committee is considering a program on Social Security for the summer. The next scheduled program is Monday, April 11, 6-8 pm at Hunneman Hall in the Main Library. The topic, "Selling the Fountain of Youth: How the Anti-Aging Industry Made a Disease out of Getting Old and Made Millions," will be presented by author Arlene Weintraub.

**Communications.** The February newsletter will include a new feature, "From our readers." Elenore is continuing to work on a feature article about the Sidewalk Safety project with residents of public

housing. She had interviewed Kevin Johnson of the DPW earlier in the day and learned that driveways are often problems for pedestrians. The principle that solving problems noticed by seniors helps everyone was reinforced.

**Membership.** Today, we have 380 active members and 228 former members; the number of active members is down slightly from December but higher than a year ago. Molly announced that Lance Chapman has joined the committee and has offered to host a membership event, such as a brunch, at Goddard House. About 150 letters to members whose renewal date fell in October 2015 and earlier were distributed, and notes of encouragement were added. They will be mailed next week.

**Professional Service Providers Group (PSPG).** The next meeting (every other month) is February 11.

**Repairs and referrals.** No change.

**Livable Community Advocacy Committee.** Parking for Senior Center volunteers will be considered by the Transportation Board January 21<sup>st</sup>. The Board will consider authorizing a number of parking passes for the Fuller Street and Centre Street lots, which would be distributed by Senior Center staff. The next committee meeting is Monday, February 1, 3 pm at the Senior Center, when Tom Brady (the town arborist) will discuss sidewalk issues related to trees.

**Age-Friendly Cities.** A biennial report is in process.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, February 17, at 3:00 PM. Future meetings (all third Wednesdays at 3) are March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 21.

Notes prepared by Molly Turkish