

## **BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Notes May 20, 2020**

Attendees:

Frank Caro, John Seay, Ruthann Dobek, Ruth Seidman, Elenore Parker, Matt Weiss, David Trevvett, Susan Granoff.

### **1. Note Taker Matt Weiss**

### **2. Report of Nominating committee**

- a. Frank Caro (Chair), Ruthann Dobek (Co-Chair), Elenore Parker (Vice-Chair), John Seay (Treasurer), Matt Weiss (Secretary).
- b. Melissa Trevvett nominated new at-large member.
- c. Karen Fischer, Roberta Winitzer, Alberta Lipson stepping down.
- d. New committee members needed – perhaps Jerry Feuer.

### **3. Annual meeting: recommendation for postponement and substitute virtual programming on senior housing**

- a. Frank Caro – Annual meeting is cancelled for September.
- b. Frank – Plan September virtual senior housing event.
- c. Frank – Jennifer Semansky is possible speaker (expert on senior housing at Harvard School of Design & Kennedy School).
- d. Panelists – Senior housing initiatives (2Life, CCB, Welltower, BHA, Kent Street/Station Street, Colonel Floyd)
- e. Extensive discussion ensued.
- f. Frank – Take lead in putting program together.

### **4. Proposal for virtual program on prevention of age discrimination as we learn to live with COVID-19**

- a. Frank – Interested in subject of age discrimination.
- b. Minimize exposure.
- c. Enable older adults to participate in community life (perhaps focusing on people living alone).
- d. Series of events exposing older adults to others and their expertise (fears, isolation, et. al.) with panelists from community with different views exchanging ideas.
- e. Discussion of benefits of outdoors (activities/environment).
- f. Ruthann – Discussion of perspectives “cowboys vs. fearful”.
- g. Discussion of “silver linings” in distancing and “slowing down”.
- h. Ruth Seidman – Consider reopening stages re older adults.
- i. Frank Caro – will take the lead with support from the Education Committee and the LCAC.
- j. Frank Caro – write a concept paper in the next few days (done).

### **5. Promotion of Election Forum**

- a. Election Forum will be promoted extensively.
- b. Social workers and seniors together.

**6. Google Groups exploration (Matt)**

- a. Matt Weiss reported the Google Groups is called “BrooklineCAN Network” and is public but for BrooklineCAN members only.
- b. Matt Weiss and Bea M – write a newsletter article on the availability of the BrooklineCAN Network.
- c. Discussion re topics and links that could be posted by members.
- d. Recommended that Matt “prime the pump” with topics.
- e. Agreed that we publish the fact that this is not private.

**7. Adverse effects of furloughs of Town employees**

- a. Ruthann Dobek – Senior Center not open until July at earliest.
- b. Ruthann – Josh Cook the Recreation Department valued liaison for older adults activities has been furloughed by the Town.
- c. Ruthann – P/T older employees of the Senior Center have been furloughed by the Town Government and due to concern about the Town budget for 2021 these furloughs could become layoffs.
- d. Committee decided to create an agenda item for the next Steering Committee meeting to fund furloughed Senior Center employees. (potential savings from cancelling the physical annual meeting is about \$3800).
- e. Ruthann – Senior Center closed but may open in June for income tax sessions 1:1 in person.

**8. Effects of COVID-19 on opportunities for participants in property tax work-off program**

- a. Ruthann – Obtaining amnesty re missed hours.
- b. Ruthann – Reported 2021 availability of hours not clear, but possible outdoor work or virtual activities such as contact tracing may be available through Dr. Jett.

**9. TRIPPS proposal to assist seniors in becoming technology capable**

- a. Ruthann – Submitted Challenge Grant request.
- b. AARP – Curriculum available by Zoom learning technology and providing devices for those who need them.
- c. Same assistance may be provided through other methods than the grant, such as from BrooklineCAN.

**10. Update on CDBG funding**

- a. Ruthann – Not yet informed about 2021 funding for BETS program and other related activities.
- b. Ruthann – Rollout plan should be published in the summer for food pantry activities/funding.

**11. Brookline Recreation Department Survey**

- a. Ruthann – Opt in on the Town government website.
- b. Ruthann – BrooklineCAN members received the survey by mail.

**12. Treasurers report (John Seay)**

- a. Low expenses limited to newsletters.

- b. Bnai Brith renewed for \$100 and Welltower joined.
- c. Providence House did not renew.
- d. \$3800 unspent due to cancelation of annual meeting.

**13. Committee reports**

- a. Communications
  - i. Newsletter.
  - ii. News releases – Updates on Covid-19 linking from BrooklineCAN website.
  - iii. Website – new links on home page: Coronavirus links, Senior Center virtual events links.
  - iv. Other – AFC-TV Episode 26 with Ruthann, Julie Washburn and Laura Baber.
- b. Education (Ruth Seidman and Ruthann Dobek)
  - i. Cancelled in person events for May and June.
  - ii. Ruthann and Ruth Seidman will review ideas for education events at next Steering Committee meeting.
- c. Livable community – limited participation in virtual meeting.
  - i. Recommendations on Welltower & Col Floyd warrant articles
    - 1. Welltower proposals recommendation disseminated.
  - ii. More benches for Beacon Street
    - 1. Based on Transportation network funding.
    - 2. Some funding used for benches at bus stops but there was money for extra benches on Beacon Street.
  - iii. Pickleball on tennis courts at Coolidge Corner (Ridley) school – lines have been drawn and hoping for some organized activities.

**14. New business**

- a. None.

**15. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 3pm.**