

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

April 19, 2017

Attendance: Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Marsha Frankel, Susan Granoff, Susan Krinsky, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Molly Turlish, Matt Weiss, Roberta Winitzer; guest-Peter Ames.

BrooklineCAN 2017 (Annual Meeting). As keynoter for the theme of “The Power of Engagement,” the committee has invited Judith Gonyea, a Boston University faculty member, who has not yet replied definitively. The committee has nominated potential exhibitors for the expo; committee members are now contacting the organizations to determine their interest in participating. Because the theme of the meeting is broad, there are many potential exhibitors. The committee is considering presenting awards to the League of Women Voters and BIG television. Steering Committee members are invited to make other nominations. Publicity, invitations, and the program booklet will follow the pattern of 2016, and the take-away gift will be a bookmark (similar to 2016).

Membership assistant. Sandy Spector has begun working on Fridays. She is being trained on updating the database, preparing correspondence related to membership, and so forth.

Treasurer’s Report. As of April 14, 2017, expenses are as budgeted. Reserves total \$17,764.

Committee reports

Finance. John presented the proposed expense budget for FY2018 (7/1/17-6/30/18). It includes amounts to cover the cost of a membership drive and spring membership event, both of which were financed by special authorization in the past; they are now proposed as regular parts of the budget. The budget will be voted at the May meeting.

John and Frank outlined the structural deficit we now have thanks to our paying for services previously donated by the Senior Center to help get BrooklineCAN started. As a result, we need to look for ways to increase our annual income by about \$5,000. Ideas included having a basket for donations at events, initiating business memberships (a proposal will be presented at the May meeting), a raffle, using Amazon Smile for donations to the Senior Center, which would share income, assuming BrooklineCAN promoted shopping with Amazon Smile. Requesting donations by letter has also been discussed. One concern is that the case for supporting BrooklineCAN and the case for supporting the Senior Center are not distinct.

Service Referrals and Member Volunteering. Nothing to report.

Membership. Molly reports that the committee is staffing registration and/or greeting participants at three upcoming events. Plans for the May 18 membership event, “How to Stay Young While Growing Older – and Have Fun Doing It” are moving forward: an email blast was sent earlier today to 886 people who receive the newsletter, a mailing will go out shortly to 107 Active and Former Members whose email address is not in the database, the committee has successfully requested

food donations from a number of grocery stores, and RSVPs are beginning to come in. Today, we have 351 active members, down seven from March. The numbers will be increasingly reliable as the Membership Assistant gets established.

Communications. The April newsletter was distributed along with information about Brookline Open Studios.

Education. The program on “The Age of Longevity” April 6 was well received. Five events are upcoming (all at the Senior Center): (1) the Reunion Project reception, Thursday, April 20, 6-8 pm; (2) Candidates Forum, Monday April 24, 4-6 pm; (3) “This Chair Rocks,” Thursday, May 4, with author Ashton Applewhite, 6-7:30; (4) “Keeping People Mobile Today and Tomorrow,” TRIPPS with Lisa D’Ambrosio from the MIT Age Lab, Tuesday, May 23, 6-8 pm; (5) Workshop on Creative Use of Extra Space at Home, Thursday, June 1, 4-6 pm, with Len Fishman, Kathy Burnes and other resource people.

Livable community advocacy / Age friendly city. Library director Sarah Slymon spoke at the April 3 meeting about the proposed upgrade of the Coolidge Corner Library. Support is needed from Town Meeting and the Advisory Committee to ensure approval of replacing the aged windows and installing a lift that will serve the meeting rooms on the lower level.

At the May 1 meeting, warrant articles that particularly affect seniors will be discussed, and the committee will decide whether BrooklineCAN will endorse passage of any or all of five selected articles. The articles are as follows: Article 12 to formalize responsibilities of the Town’s Commission on Disability; Article 18 would authorize setting speed limits in Brookline at 25 miles per hour to make streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists; Article 19 would authorize the Transportation Board to set speed limits near schools, libraries, and the Senior Center to 20 miles per hour; Article 20 would commit the Town to uphold and adhere to the Paris Agreement of 2015; Article 23 seeks support from Brookline for a Legislative proposal to allow municipalities to implement a modest gas tax in support of pedestrian, bicycle, and mass transit infrastructure. Petitioners have been invited to the 3 pm meeting at the Senior Center. All BrooklineCAN members are welcome to attend.

Issues coming up include funding threats to The Ride and possible elimination of the Federal Community Development block grant program that supports BETS. Frank mentioned a possible warrant article for the Fall Town Meeting that would propose a study of Brookline’s response to the increased and increasing population of seniors, “Are we ready for 2030?” (2031 is when the oldest baby boomers reach age 85).

New Business. Frank and Ruthann will appoint a Nominating Committee to fill vacancies in the Steering Committee.

Next meeting. Wednesday, May 17, at 3:00 PM. Future meetings (third Wednesdays at 3) are June 21, July 19, August 16.

Notes prepared by Molly Turlish