

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Notes June 17, 2020

Attendees:

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

1. Note Taker Matt Weiss

2. Election of members and officers

- a. Elected for 2-year terms: Co-chair: Frank Caro, Vice-chair: Elenore Parker, Treasurer: John Seay, Secretary: Matt Weiss, At-large member: Melissa Trevvett
- b. Yolanda Rodriguez will serve as the Council on Aging representative.
- c. Frank Caro indicated this would be his last 2-year term.

3. Progress report on planning for virtual program on senior housing

- a. Frank Caro – All panelists agreed to participate except 2Life, but agreement is expected.
- b. Jennifer Molinsky of the Harvard University Joint Center on Housing will provide an overview of the need nationally for increased housing for seniors driven by the growth of the older population.
- c. The panel will include Mike Jacobs, chair of the Brookline Housing Authority speaking about plans for replacement and expansion of the Col. Floyd development. Rhonda Glyman of Center Communities will speak about plans for a new residential building on Centre Street. Representatives of Welltower senior living will speak about their plans for the Newbury College site. 2Life has been invited to speak about the Brown Family House. The developer of the Kent-Station Street affordable senior housing proposal will also be invited.
- d. Frank – Request BIG to distribute the show.
- e. Elenore – Requested BrooklineCAN support the affordable housing groups and committee agreed.

4. Progress report on June 25 virtual program on living with COVID-19

- a. Panel will consist of Betsy Pollock, Ruth Seidman, Bea Mikulecky, Susan Granoff, and Fran Perler.

- b. Moderator is Michael Allen.
- c. Panelists will talk about the risks that they are willing to take as the Covid-19 lockdown is relaxed.
- d. The program will be offered in collaboration with BIG.
- e. A promotional email blast will be sent to the BrooklineCAN list.
- f. Frank reported - The panel has held a promising rehearsal.
- g. Recording will be accessible from the BrooklineCAN website.
- h. Further panel discussions to be held as conditions change.

5. Feedback on Election Forum

- a. Election Forum was well-received and Michael Allen did an excellent job as moderator.
- b. The candidates welcomed the chance to address senior issues.
- c. The technical support from BIG was helpful for us in using a Zoom format for the forum.
- d. Matt Weiss was effective as the timekeeper.

6. Update on Age-Friendly Business initiative

- a. Ruthann reported on a recent meeting involving Ruthann, Beryl Porter, and Frank Caro.
- b. Despite the Covid-19 lockdown, Beryl has brought the number of age-friendly businesses to 88.
- c. Beryl will be contacting participating businesses to see how they have been serving seniors during the Covid-19 crisis.
- d. Information about special Covid-19 response efforts by businesses will be reported in the age-friendly business section of the BrooklineCAN website.
- e. Communications Committee will consider including a newsletter article calling attention to business efforts to offer special services to seniors during the covid-19 pandemic.

7. Update on Google Groups exploration (Matt)

- a. Matt – Reported recent requests to join BrooklineCAN Network for a total of 21 members.
- b. Matt – Initiate two topics to “grease the wheels”.

8. Implications of Town budget difficulties for Council on Aging

- a. Ruthann – Cuts to CoA budget involve a 10% reduction which is bigger than other government departments.

- b. Senior Center – Tax assistance by appointment began 6/16 will involve taking temperature and sanitizing before and after bathroom use.
 - c. Susan – Budget just delivered to Advisory Committee involves cut backs to capital projects or delays and maintaining reserve funds for emergencies.
- 9. Proposal to use unspent BrooklineCAN annual meeting budget to fill gaps in Council on Aging budget**
- a. \$4,037 available per John Seay.
 - b. Steering Committee is waiting for a proposal.
 - c. Ruthann – Senior Center will inform community of BrooklineCAN funding assistance to Senior Center.
- 10. Update on effects of COVID-19 on opportunities for participants**
- a. Ruthann indicated they are working on participants.
 - b. Program is progressing.
 - c. Not clear yet as to approach.
- 11. Update on CDBG funding**
- a. Not voted on 2021 allocation yet.
 - b. Scheduled for 7/1/2020.
- 12. Possible education program on home care**
- a. No report.
- 13. Council on Aging involvement in Urban Forest Climate Resiliency Master Plan**
- a. Reported by Town consultant re trees and climate.
 - b. Frank – 11,000 trees are in the public space now need to be type that thrive in/mirror a North Carolina climate.
 - c. David – Does the plan affects private trees – answer is no.
- 14. Building a better Brookline**
- a. Magnolia House discussion.
 - b. Need for more density requiring changing zoning laws.
 - c. Forum 1 to be followed by July forum 2 September Forum.
- 15. Tom Mottl offered of equipment for live meetings**
- a. Discussion took place.
- 16. Treasurers report (John Seay)**
- a. Two yearly charges are expected.
 - b. \$4,371 was available for the annual meeting.
- 17. Committee reports**
- a. Communications
 - i. Newsletter – July and August individual issues rather than combined July/August with 6/22 deadline for July articles.
 - ii. News releases – Updates on Covid-19 linking from BrooklineCAN website to Tab and Patch, email blast to members (releases prod non-BrooklineCAN members).

- iii. Website – no report.
 - iv. Other – No report.
 - b. Education (Ruth Seidman and Ruthann Dobek)
 - i. Continuing to seek virtual programming rather than education events.
 - ii. Livable community – Panel with home care providers planned and the continuing care retirement community.
- 18. New business**
- a. Next AFC-TV show will be Bob Linscott head of the LGBT Aging Project re COVID-19.
- 19. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 3pm.**