

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

November 19, 2014

Attendance: Peter Ames, Kathy Burnes, Carol Caro, Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Michelle LaPointe, Elenore Parker, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Molly Turlish, Matt Weiss, and Karen Zweig

Frank announced that Laura Baber has resigned from the Steering Committee (she remains on the Education Committee).

Proposals for JF&CS Fellows with BrooklineCAN. Two proposals were reviewed “Mobilizing Seniors in Public Housing on Neighborhood Livability Issues” and “Extending the Guide to Residential Buildings with Elevators.” Both projects were endorsed, with the modification that the first might be limited to one or two public housing developments rather than two or three as included in the draft proposal. Kathy has set aside funds and has spoken with Carol Greenfield at ReServe, who is eager to work with us to find good people to apply. Both projects will be posted in hopes of attracting candidates. Frank will contact staff of the Housing Authority to solicit support for the proposal.

Complementary one-year memberships for speakers and panelists. The Education Committee proposes to thank speakers and panelists with a complementary membership, and the Steering Committee approved the idea. Dr. James Greenblatt, who presented the October 15 education program will be the first to become a member for a year. At the end of the complementary membership, he will be invited to renew.

Stories project. Frank proposed a “Stories” initiative before realizing that six stories illustrating the impact of the Senior Center’s H.E.L.P. services are posted on our website. These stories are ready to be promoted in our newsletter and in the TAB.

Tablet computer. A slightly used tablet computer has become available through BrooklineCAN’s assistance to a Boston College researcher who asked us to help identify a group of active seniors to participate in the research project. BrooklineCAN members are now eligible to borrow the tablet and get assistance through the Senior Center’s one-on-one computer training program.

Education. “The Genius of Marian” was shown November 13 at the Senior Center to about 40 people. One of Marian’s daughters was present and made a particularly effective contribution to the panel discussion that followed the screening of the film. The Education Committee and Sherrill House (in Jamaca Plain) are negotiating to present a film about Glen Campbell’s struggle with Alzheimer’s disease at the Coolidge Corner Theatre February 12. Sponsors will give packets of information to people who attend; there will be an introduction and a brief post-script, but no panel. A possible tie-in with dinner in Coolidge Corner is being explored, and it was suggested to involve the Booksmith, which might offer relevant books for sale.

March 23rd, well known sex therapist Anita Hoffer will speak at Hunneman Hall at the Main Library on aging and sexuality. There is a possibility that the Chamber of Commerce will collaborate with BrooklineCAN on an event with Joe Coughlin of the MIT Age Lab on a program on aging and business. Negotiations are ongoing.

At the October 15 session featuring Dr. James Greenblatt, 35 people signed in, 10 current BrooklineCAN members and 25 non-members, including one former member. The non-members are being called by the Membership Committee. Also, 37 people returned event evaluations, which were very positive. How people learned of the event: 9 through BrooklineCAN newsletters, etc., 13 through Senior Center publications, 7 through a friend, 4 through newspapers, 3 through Brookline Adult Education, and 1 other.

Livable Community Advocacy Committee. The November 3 hearing with the Transportation Board attracted about 20 people who spoke to the need for extended on-street parking near the Senior Center. The next step is for staff of the Transportation Department to prepare a formal proposal for the Transportation Board. We have no idea when the matter will be brought formally to the Transportation Board. A public forum for seniors on override proposals will begin at 3 pm on Wednesday, December 3 in the Senior Center. The task force on slippery sidewalks is hard at work.

Membership. Today, we have 312 active (paid) members, up nine since the October Steering Committee meeting. Current committee activities include presentations at 100 Centre Street and 1550 Beacon, erecting the display at the Coolidge Corner Library, distributing special fliers at Town Meeting, and featuring gift memberships on the website and the December newsletter. A special membership certificate will be sent to recipients of gift memberships.

A planning session on the spring members event is scheduled for Friday (11/21). The team is brainstorming possible names for the series of events. The 2015 event will feature Ellen Goodman and the Conservation Project and will include a presentation, time for practice, and social time. It will probably be scheduled for either the Main Library or the Coolidge Corner branch.

Communications. The printed newsletter now has larger type to enhance readability. To make room, the opening message has been eliminated along with the list of articles. The newsletters will begin featuring a BrooklineCAN committee each month, starting with Communications in December. Several possible articles for media relations were mentioned, including the ReServe project(s), the tablet computer, and the committee spotlights. Ruthann suggested including her in the material submitted for the Senior Center bulletin.

Professional service providers. The next meeting on December 2nd will feature Dawn Siber from Brookline Public Health talking about the buddies program for preparedness.

Finance. The Annual Meeting cost about \$3,000 plus about \$1,300 in in-kind donations to cover actual out-of-pocket expenses (in addition to space and staff donated by the Senior Center). Individuals who donated significant time to make the event possible have been acknowledged with notes from Frank. We have approximately \$17,000 on hand, an increase of about \$400 since the beginning of the fiscal year.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 17 at 3:00 PM

Notes prepared by Molly Turlish