

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING

MINUTES January 12, 2016

Present: Carolyn Bottum, Marilyn Buckler, Ben Horne, Don Milan, Florence Montgomery, Mary Sheldon, Dot Taylor, Dilla Tingley, Rob Todd

Minutes: The Minutes for the December 8 board meeting were approved unanimously.

Calendar: Carolyn reviewed the highlights for the February calendar.

Director's Report:

Transition Plan: Happily, great coverage is in place for Pam's maternity leave. Susan Isbell will go on the Town payroll (the federal grant that has been supporting her covers only 4 years and that is up) and cover the primary social work and volunteer management. Marilyn Leviss will continue to do administrative work for which she is highly skilled and Claire Gerstein, a retired social worker, will contribute as needed.

Basement: Fire Chief has okayed the plans that Michael Haines has prepared and as soon as the Building Inspector okayes them work can begin. The sooner, the better, since we need the 2 new small offices to accommodate the transition plan.

Intergenerational Ukulele Program: The sing-along with Birches students was a big success and inspired the ukulele group to go across the street and have another successful and appreciated sing-along on another afternoon.

MBTA Event: 90 Lincoln seniors signed up or renewed their Charlie Cards with a highly efficient team that got folks through within 15 minutes.

Lincoln Cultural Council Grant: The grant was received to cover a performance in April or May of "Atticus" with excerpts of "To Kill a Mockingbird" with actor Richard Clark along with a related intergenerational book group co-sponsored by the Library.

Newsletter advertising: We are in danger of losing our contract with our Newsletter publisher due to lack of advertising. All Board Members are urged to think of businesses and professionals who might advertise. At the Board's request, Carolyn will prepare a letter and some materials for us to use in solicitation. In the meantime FLCOA has kicked in to cover the shortfall. They receive donations from many of the businesses that might otherwise advertise in the Newsletter.

The Ride: Fortunately the MBTA proposal to cut service is off the table. It would have reduced the area mandated for coverage by The Ride to only about 17% of Lincoln and adversely affected about 100 people. Currently 216 residents use about 2100 rides at a cost of \$80,000. MetroWest Regional Transit Authority is a potential alternative currently used by Wayland, Weston and Sudbury if we are cut back by The Ride.

Committee Reports

Dot reports that **Clinics** are fine.

Trips – Rob reports that the February 23 trip to the Dallin Museum in Arlington is on schedule.

Minuteman Senior Services – Dilla reports that the long-time and amazingly effective Executive Director, Joan Butler, will be resigning in June. She has been there 33 years and seen the budget of the organization grow from \$3 million to \$21 million. She will be missed. The MMSS Board will direct the search for a new ED. Dilla also reported on the Care Transition Program (CHART 2) at Emerson. A state grant is funding a Social Worker hired by MMSS to serve on the team organized to follow certain patients when they are discharged, with a goal of reducing readmissions. The Social Worker at Emerson, Bob Pacl, reported to the MMSS Board that the 12 person transition team is highly successful and his role is greatly enhanced by having office space and being integrated into many aspects of the hospital. The hope is that this program will continue even after the grant money has expired.

Mary reported on the **Housing Commission**. The Airport Road fiasco has been resolved. The National Park (Nancy Nelson retiring Director) has found a non-profit donor who contributed \$300,000 to reimburse Lincoln for the property Lincoln had acquired with the hope of building a group home for retired veterans. The Hanscom base had been enthusiastic about the proposal but the Park had quashed it. We sued, but the Park won and Lincoln was out the \$300,000. We have our money but not the group home.

Campus Master Plan. The MSBA has turned down Lincoln's request for funding. The school project and the Community Center project are still on the table but state money will not be forthcoming to support the school project. There is definite interest in the Town for both projects and it is now just a matter of timing. The **Campus Master Plan Study Committee** is preparing its Final Report. The next step will be for the Selectmen to form a new Community Center committee and the Selectmen and School Committee to form a new School Building Committee. At our request, Carolyn will draft a letter for the COA Board to send to Tim Higgins and the Selectmen to remind them of our continuing needs and let them know that we continue to support building a **Community Center** for Lincoln.

There was no **Other Business** and the meeting adjourned at 3:10pm

Submitted by Dilla