

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

May 18, 2016

Attendance: Peter Ames, Carol Caro, Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Karen Fischer, Susan Krinsky, Michelle LaPointe, Elenore Parker, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Molly Turlish

Election of offices and Steering Committee members for 2016-17. The slate proposed at the April meeting was elected unanimously:

- **Officers:** Co-Chairs – Ruthann Dobek and Frank Caro (terms expire 2018); Vice Chair / Secretary – Molly Turlish (term expires 2018); Treasurer – John Seay (term expires 2018)
- **Founding Partner representatives:** Council on Aging – Roberta Winitzer (term expires 2018); Senior Center Board – vacant for now; Center Communities of Brookline – vacant for now; Goddard House – Lance Chapman (term expires 2017); Jewish Family & Children’s Services – Marsha Frankel (term expires 2018)
- **Committee representatives:** Communications – Elenore Parker (term expires 2018); Education – Susan Krinsky (term expires 2017); Livable Community Advocacy – Susan Granoff [new] (term expires 2017); Membership – Karen Fischer (term expires 2017); Professional Service Providers Group – Michelle LaPointe (term expires 2018)
- **At large:** Matt Weiss (term expires 2018); Lisa Berger (term expires 2017); Ruth Seidman (term expires 2017)

Budget for FY 2017. The budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1 totals \$17, 903 in expenses. It was adopted 10-0 with one abstention.

Residential guides. The proposal from the Communications Committee to remove the “members only” restriction on online access to the guides to rental buildings and condos with elevators was accepted. The cost of the printed version of the guide to rental buildings has not yet been established, and sponsoring it will be discussed with various real estate agencies.

2016 Community Service Awards. The annual meeting committee nominates Gary McCabe (Town assessor) and Roger Blood (chair of the housing advisory board) for awards to be presented at the annual meeting September 15. Both were praised highly for actions supportive of seniors with housing concerns and for contributions to the community. The nominations were accepted with gratitude.

Visit from Waltham delegation. After initial discussions, Waltham has moved forward in establishing a community aging network. They want to visit in June to meet with a broader group of BrooklineCAN leaders. Dates are being discussed. Steering committee members are encouraged to participate in the meeting.

Proposal for BrooklineCAN to join the Village-to-Village Network. Elenore will work with Kathy Burnes to research possible benefits of joining. In question are the value of what the Network offers us and the willingness of one or more members of the Steering Committee to participate in Network activities.

Treasurer's Report. John reported that April was a month of limited financial activity and noted that about as many memberships lapsed as were added or renewed.

Education. The TRIPPS program on driving retirement May 17th attracted 30 or so participants. The panel was excellent, and the "ice cream test" was introduced – getting a ride to a hospital or to the Senior Center is relatively easy, but who will drive you to Toscanini's when you want an ice cream cone? The June 16 session will feature people who depend on transportation options. The July 11th program on Social Security will be 6-8 at the Senior Center. Ruthann announced a July 13 program on working with disabilities arranged by Deidre Waxman at the Senior Center, 2-4.

Communications. The editors are planning the June newsletter. The July/August issue will be distributed at the end of June. The website will add a link to the video of the 5/17 panel.

Membership. Today, there are 377 active members, down 12 from April. New brochures should be delivered shortly; they have a green cover, which will make them easy to distinguish from older versions. The committee is beginning welcome calls to new and newly renewed members to thank them for joining and to invite them to join a committee. After a question about business memberships arose, the committee developed a proposal:

Business Memberships: Available at Bronze (\$100), Silver (\$250), Gold (\$500), and Platinum (\$1,000) levels on an annual basis. Business Members as of December 15 will be listed by category each year in the January BrooklineCAN newsletter. Those active as of June 30 will be listed in the program booklet for the Annual Meeting in September and featured on a poster displayed during the Annual Meeting. Gold and Platinum members would be named in a press release distributed in March each year that details how their support furthers the work of BrooklineCAN, and the logos for Platinum Business Members will be featured on www.BrooklineCAN.org home page.

The proposal was adopted. We will develop an insert to the brochure highlighting business memberships; it will be used in appropriate situations.

Outreach to the Chamber of Commerce. After Frank and Lance Chapman spoke with the Chamber about an Age Friendly initiative, Frank followed-up with a letter. He has not heard back.

Professional Service Providers Group (PSPG). A meeting June 9 at the Senior Center will feature a consultant on Veterans benefits.

Livable Community Advocacy Committee / Age-Friendly Cities. The Transportation Board meets May 19, and establishing a standing committee on pedestrian issues is on the agenda. A photo of the pocket park and John and Green Streets was circulated to general agreement that the space has been improved dramatically thanks to gentle prompting from Frank and the LCAC. Benches will

be added – which led to a discussion of how seniors could request benches at key locations. LCAC is monitoring the proposal from JCHE for an affordable housing development at Harvard & Williams Streets. Several concerns about the preliminary concept were expressed. LCAC is also active related to a warrant article on trash collection.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 15, at 3:00 PM. Frank will be out of the country, and Ruthann will preside. Future meetings (all third Wednesdays at 3) are July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 21.

Notes prepared by Molly Turlish