

Minutes of the Age Friendly Cities Committee

March 2, 2021

Present: Ruthann Dobek, Nancy Heller, John Seay, Henry Winkelman, Matt Weiss, Ruthann Dobek, Yolanda Rodriguez, Sarah Kaplan, Saralynn Adaire. Guests: Carolina San Miguel (Community Relations – CDICR), Jessica Milley-Gee (Town Administration Staff).

1. Note Taker: The committee selected Matt Weiss as Note Taker for the meeting.
2. Review of minutes of last meeting:
 - a. Introductions were offered by each attendee.
 - b. February 11, 2020 minutes were submitted.
3. Acknowledgement and tribute to Frank Caro
 - a. Nancy Heller – as a tribute to Frank we need to continue the committee and buckle down and do the work.
 - b. Ruthann Dobek – recognized Frank as the founder of this committee and one of the team that accomplished designation of Brookline as an age friendly community by the World Health Organization in 2012.
 - c. John Seay – pointed out that this committee, BrooklineCAN and the Pedestrian Advisory Committees all chaired by Frank Caro.
 - d. Sarah Kaplan – Indicated Frank Welcomed here to Town and to the Age Friendly Cities Committee.
 - e. Saralynn Allaire – Frank was a great mentor to her and supported her in becoming the chair of the Brookline Commission on Disability.
 - f. Matt Weiss – Frank welcomed him and as a mentor introduced him to age friendly cities activities.
 - g. Henry Winkelman – Frank welcomed him and his ideas to housing efforts in Brookline for the last 11 years as a mentor and a friend.
 - h. Yolanda Rodriguez – Frank had a rare talent in that he would and could support people in accomplishing their goals whether he agreed with them or not.
 - i. Anne Reed – “I want to express my sympathy on the passing of Frank Caro. He was a kind, generous, community focused leader who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of seniors, pedestrians and the Brookline community.”
4. Nominate new co-chair
 - a. John Seay – Made a motion to nominate Matt Weiss as the new co-chair replacing Frank Caro.
 - b. Henry Winkelman – Seconded the motion.
 - c. Vote – 8 to 0 vote for Matt Weiss as co-chair of Age Friendly Cities Committee.
5. Discussion on COVID-19 vaccine with an emphasis on homebound residents
 - a. Nancy – Concerned about shortage of doses provided to the Town
 - b. Ruthann reported – Cheryl Anne Snyder of Emergency Preparedness and CoA collecting names of homebound.
 - c. Ruthann – This week vaccinating Brookline public housing seniors and disabled.
 - d. Saralynn – Indicated there is a 911 indicator list of homebound individuals.
6. Review of committee membership
 - a. Ruthann – Will send proposed membership list to committee members for discussion at the next meeting.
 - b. Regular members and Town Department staff members such as Anne Reed of the Library.
7. Coordination of efforts to protect and enhance pedestrian experiences in Brookline

- a. Todd Kirrane obtained funding for accessible walk lights at intersections and is requesting additional funding from the CDBG.
 - b. Commission on Disability is writing a letter in support of the funding.
 - c. Ruthann – Senior Center/CoA will send a letter in support of the funding.
 - d. Nancy – Reported that funding though less than requested has been provided for the Cypress Street and playground accessibility and refurbished streetscape.
 - e. Nancy – Station will also have enhanced accessibility features.
- 8. Subcommittee Reports**
- a. Transportation – Ruthann reported
 - i. TRIPPS: Maria Foster is assisting people who need transportation to vaccine sites.
 - ii. Limited to one person and caregiver to each ride.
 - iii. Requesting \$45K for transportation this year from CDBG.
 - b. Housing – Henry Winkelman, Nancy and Ruthann reported.
 - i. Hebrew Senior Life (HSL) project reduced to one site on Centre Street as a 40B fully affordable site with 45-55 units and a connection to the Senior Center.
 - ii. Now at lower level of affordability, considering higher level.
 - iii. Open question as to extent of connection to Senior Center from HSL.
 - iv. 2Life housing opened/occupied approximately 75 units on KI property.
 - v. Ruthann – Investigate plans for ground floor of 2Life building.
 - c. Health – Dr. Jett report is on Episode 30 of AFC-TV on BrooklineCAN website.
 - d. Library – Anne Reed filed a report through Ruthann.
 - i. Popular Gentle Yoga Zoom classes with Keith Beasley.
 - ii. Putterham book discussion group continues to meet monthly.
 - iii. The library adult services programming committee collaboration with several organizations to provide special programs.
 - iv. Crafters program for homebound older adults.
 - v. Joint program on COVID-19 and the holidays in collaboration w/ BIG.
 - vi. The library provides telephone reference 617-730-2370 ext. 3, chat; printing-at-the-library, museum passes, and contactless pickup is available at all locations.
 - e. Council on Aging (CoA) – Ruthann reported.
 - i. \$60K provided by the state via Cynthia Crème for 400 meals to the senior community through the Food Pantry and the Senior Center.
 - ii. 12 restaurants completed good applications and were chosen.
 - iii. Food will be provided March through May 2021 including “Grab and Go” lunches from the Senior Center.
 - f. Recreation – Ruthann reported.
 - i. Josh Cooke was furloughed but rehired for emergency services.
 - ii. May return to Recreation and AFC by April which would be welcomed.
- 9. Commission on Disabilities update – Saralynn Adaire reported.**
- a. Need – Blocked/obstructed sidewalks due to hedges and shrubbery and outdoor seating at restaurants where customers move seats and block sidewalks.
 - b. Need – Access to outdoor seating of restaurants monitored.
 - c. Action – Door hanger developed with Sarah Kaplan and DPW that informs of need to keep 38” to 46” clear on sidewalks.
 - d. Town Meeting – Closed Captioning (CC) will be provided using HCP funds.
 - e. Note – Zoom is working on providing CC but not there yet.

- 10. Age-friendly TV plans – Matt and John Seay reported.**
 - a. Two possible shows are Raul Fernandez and/or and educational show re consideration of charter change for Brookline (need 50,000 signatures to get on the ballot).
 - b. Ruthann – Suggested Carolina San Miguel as a potential guest on AFC-TV re community engagement and intergenerational activities.
- 11. Date and main agenda for next meeting – April 6, 2021 at 2pm, virtual.**
- 12. Miscellaneous – No report.**
- 13. New business**
 - a. Ruthann – Consider possible application to AARP for designation as an AARP age friendly city.
 - b. Some advantages are: small grants, public listing nationwide.
 - c. Ruthann will give a more detailed report at the next meeting for discussion.