

## Minutes of the Age Friendly Cities Committee (AFC)

May 11, 2021

Present: Lynne Karsten, Ruthann Dobek, Henry Winkelman, John Seay, Matt Weiss, Yolanda Rodriguez, Josh Cooke, Saul Feldman, Jessica Milley-Gee, Sarah Kaplan. Guest: Shonali Guadino (Spaulding Rehab Social Worker)

1. Review of minutes of previous meetings:
  - a. Minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum at previous meetings.
2. Designate note taker
  - a. Matthew Weiss for this meeting.
3. Status of Select Board liaison
  - a. Nancy Heller was replaced on the Select Board by Miriam Aschkenasy requiring the naming of a new liaison by the new Select Board Chair Heather Hamilton.
  - b. Ruthann Dobek will remind the board to appoint a new liaison.
4. Review of committee membership (see chart)
  - a. Reviewed and discussed chart but changes require new liaison to proceed.
  - b. Anne Reed has a conflict with current tentative meeting dates so reconsideration of dates will take place once liaison is selected.
  - c. Matt will ask Carol Caro if she is interested in becoming a member of the AFC.
  - d. Consider some fresh names too.
5. Coordination of efforts to protect and enhance pedestrian experiences in Brookline
  - a. \$150K of \$460K CDGB funding requested for traffic signals for visually impaired.
  - b. Sarah created graphic for new DPW protocol re sidewalk blocking hedges.
  - c. Requests were issued by the Massachusetts Office on Disability.
6. COVID-19 update
  - a. Josh Cooke worked on setting up vaccinations for home-based older adults – originally J&J but changed to Moderna due to J&J holdup.
  - b. Two visits needed but may be good idea for home-based in any case.
  - c. Library open starting June 1<sup>st</sup> for browsing (30 minutes per visit) 50% occupancy.
  - d. Town Hall open starting June 1<sup>st</sup> by appointment for partial day.
  - e. Senior Center open with limited occupancy.
  - f. Pickleball available at Warren Field based on scheduled sessions for all ages on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays with beginners on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - g. Josh – Brookline Day cancelled for 2021.
7. Discussion of Captioning for Zoom
  - a. Sarah – Council on Disability is paying for Zoom Closed Captioning for Town Meeting and for other meetings on request only.
  - b. Private paid Zoom accounts have closed captioning available but not .gov
  - c. Sarah – Considering a third party service for other .gov accounts in town.
8. Ruthann report on AARP Age-Friendly
  - a. Brookline is designated an age friendly city by the World Health Organization.
  - b. Brookline can also obtain age friendly designation from AARP.
  - c. Matt, Ruth Seidman and Ruthann will work on obtaining AARP approval.
  - d. Henry Winkelman and Saul Feldman will work on the housing aspects.
9. Subcommittee Reports
  - a. Transportation – Ruthann reported
    - i. Shortage nationwide of Uber and Lyft drivers raising prices.

- ii. Springwell has funded 8 communities for free over 60 years-old transportation for a total of \$92K until the money runs out or until November 2021 whichever is first.
    - iii. Similar funding from taxes on Uber and Lyft for medical cab rides for anyone in Brookline – managed by Maria Foster of the TRIPPS team.
    - iv. June Charlie Card program at Senior Center run by a TRIPPS volunteer.
  - b. Housing
    - i. CIDCR affordable housing initiative.
    - ii. HSL changed proposal for Centre Street building to all affordable and to increase space on first floor for Senior Center space (5000 sq. ft.) – but no funding for the extra space.
  - c. Health – Lynn Karsten reported.
    - i. 55 home visits have been completed - others scheduled late May/June.
    - ii. New phone number on the Brookline COVID-19 website for vaccines.
    - iii. New mask rules in effect May 21<sup>st</sup> linking regs to CDC guidelines.
    - iv. Senior Center must follow regs for many different types of buildings.
  - d. Library
    - i. Ruthann reported Brookline Public Library is opening June 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - e. Council on Aging (CoA) – Ruthann reported.
    - i. Paula Span coming to Senior Center Zoom in June re her new book “On Being a Grandmother”.
    - ii. Local restaurants paid to supply 450-500 meals (50 to the Senior Center and 450 to the Food Pantry) and funding has run out so new funding campaign in process to fund additional meals.
    - iii. Select people in various ways including Food Commodity Program home bound, Grab and Go and others.
    - iv. Funding originally provided by the State Legislature, i.e., Cindy Creem.
    - v. 11 restaurants chosen from those that applied.
  - f. Recreation – Josh Cooke reported.
    - i. No Brookline Day is planned for 2021 next one is 2022.
    - ii. Pickleball will be available in June.
- 10. Commission on Disabilities update**
  - a. Sarah Kaplan reported on retirement of the Type 7 and 8 cars to be replaced by Type 9 and 10 cars by 2024.
  - b. Variances have been issued for use of the current accessibility until replacement.
  - c. Need to stand up for APS (Audio Pedestrian Signals) at Select Board meeting.
- 11. Age-friendly TV plans**
  - a. Erin Gallentine, Miriam Aschkenasy, Town Clerk, Josh Cooke (Brookline Day).
  - b. Consider Meridith Mooney for restaurant seating and outdoor dining year round.
  - c. Consider Carolina San Miguel the new Community Engagement Strategist.
- 12. Date and main agenda for next meeting – June 8, 2021 at 2pm, virtual.**
- 13. Miscellaneous**
  - a. Hebrew Senior Life (Center Communities of Brookline).
  - b. Sarah will report on CDICR activities at the next meeting.
- 14. New business**
  - a. Attend to plans to continue remote/hybrid meetings which needs Governor’s and Legislature approval.
  - b. John Seay pointed out existence of equipment for hybrid meetings at the Senior Center.