

Wayland Council on Aging

MINUTES

MARCH 5, 2013

8:00AM

SENIOR CENTER

FACILITATOR	Betsy Soule, Chair
NOTE TAKER	Mary Antes, Secretary
ATTENDEES	<u>COA Board Members Present:</u> Betsy Soule, Chair; Mary Antes, Evelyn Ekmejian, Harriet Onello, Becky Patterson, Bill Sterling, Denise Yurkofsky <u>COA Board Members Absent:</u> Bill Zellen <u>Director:</u> Julie Secord <u>Guest:</u> Ken Best, DRA
PUBLIC COMMENT	There was no public comment

Agenda topics: Meeting Convened at 7:02pm

FACILITIES

JULIE SECORD/KEN BEST

DISCUSSION	Consultant Ken Best said the goal of DRA’s study is to evaluate current buildings and to show options for their reuse. DRA’s report is due by the end of March. He presented a space-allocation diagram for a combined COA and library building at the municipal pad. It showed two entrances and an elevator for each department so that one part could be secured when the other is open for evening meetings. It contained a multi-purpose room that can seat 400 people auditorium style or 150 at tables and showed 135-150 parking spaces. Bill pointed out that because of river set-back requirements, only 10 percent of the land inside this area can be disturbed. He also said that daylight is important so siting the building is key, suggested that bathrooms should be scattered around the COA portion of the facility, and we would like to have art and exercise space be included. Julie has had a request for workshop space. The board reiterated that the COA space allowance cannot be reduced. It was pointed out that the potential for space rentals could cover the cost of maintenance. The board thanked Mr. Best and commended Bill for feeding important information to him.
ACTION	

NATICK SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER

JULIE SECORD & BILL STERLING

DISCUSSION	Bill, Julie, Evelyn, and Mary had a tour of the new Natick center. Bill said the entrance was awkward—what appeared to be the front entrance was not. He also said that the colors were drab and there were too many features that gave it an institutional feel. Access to offices was through a file storage room. The classrooms were nice and there was good storage space. There is interest in going back during operating hours.
ACTION	

BAY PATH

EVELYN EKMAJIAN

DISCUSSION	Evelyn distributed two handouts from the Bay Path report: Top Needs from 2012 Needs Assessment and Community Services and Programs for the month of January 2013. The budget has been level funded; since the number of people being served is increasing, level funding is really a cut. There is money available to work with people suffering from depression. The sequester may have an impact on Meals on Wheels.
ACTION	

COA/LIBRARY COLLABORATIVE: STRATEGIC PLANNING

BOARD

DISCUSSION	Bill urged that the COA/Library meetings continue rather than wait for action at Town Meeting. We should keep the Selectmen updated and visit other boards to solicit support.
ACTION	Bill will contact Aida about meeting again before Town Meeting. Mary will check with the moderator to see if the COA/Library may speak at Town Meeting under the “Hear Reports” article as well as distribute literature.

TAX WORK-OFF

JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	<p>Betsy said she got the impression from the Finance Committee that the town budget will fund 50 tax work-off slots at \$500 each. In 2014, the Department of Revenue will require the town to distribute IRS W-2 forms to all tax work-off participants. How that will impact the participation is unknown. This might be the time to consider increasing the funding level to \$750 or \$1,000 to offset the tax implications of the W-2.</p> <p>Another issue of concern is the effect of property tax reduction because of the requirement that a resident receiving abatements cannot pay less in property taxes than the prior year. Tom Conroy will be apprised of this. Alice Peisch, the new representative in precinct 4 has asked to attend a board meeting.</p>
ACTION	Alice Peisch and Tom Conroy will be invited to the May meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	<p>Julie said the department is buried and it is stressful. A special event, Simple Solutions, will be held on April 3 from 3 to 6 pm at Trinitarian Congregational Church. The purpose is to feature solutions to problems so that seniors can continue to age in place. There will be about 20 vendors and speakers on the half hour. The 3rd Annual Electronic Recycling will take place on April 17th. Julie has a file of numerous complaints about the air quality in the art center in Station 2 due to dust and fumes from the kiln. Julie would like to have an outside evaluation.</p>
ACTION	

MINUTES

DISCUSSION	The minutes of the February 2, 2013 meeting were approved.
ACTION	The minutes were unanimously approved (Onello/Yurkofsky).

ADJOURNMENT

DISCUSSION	The next meeting will be April 1, 2013 at 7 pm.
ACTION	The meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.