

Minutes of the Age Friendly Cities Committee (AFCC)

January 10, 2023

Present: Carol Caro, Joshua Cooke, Ruthann Dobek, Saul Feldman, Lynne Karsten, James Lee, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, John VanScoyoc, Matt Weiss, Henry Winkelman. Absent: EJ Bennett, Sarah Kaplan. Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee. Guests: Sigalle Reiss. Observer: Perry Grossman.

1. Review of minutes of November 15th, 2022 meeting
 - a. Minutes approved 8-0-3. (Quorum present)
2. Designate note taker
 - a. Matt Weiss.
3. Sigalle Reiss, Public Health Commissioner/Director of Health and Human Services
 - a. Ruthann Dobek – Introduction expressed interest in goals of the department.
 - i. Presentation to be followed by discussion.
 - b. Presentation
 - i. Public health is the science of protecting and promoting the health of people and the community where they live work and play.
 - ii. Promote healthy lifestyles, research disease and injury prevention, detect, prevent and respond to infectious diseases.
 - iii. Areas include: Environmental Health (inspections+), Community Events (Health and Engagements), Public Health Nursing/Epidemiology, Mental Health, Emergency Preparedness (includes pandemic planning), Substance Use Prevention (school partnership), Administration/Policy (long and short term regulations).
 - iv. Challenges: Sun setting funding (marijuana, COVID19), Need for human services staff and coordination (opportunities to formalize relations between organizations), new bylaws and demands, lack of good data collection and evaluation (opportunities for funding), turnover (difficulty hiring so not fully staffed).
 - v. Opportunities: Opioid settlement funds, Community Health Assessment/5-year Improvement Plan with ARPA funds (work with CoA/AFCC and Teen Center), cooperation with Brookline Center for Community Mental Health Center, additional grant seeking, better data gathering (EH-Accela System and ARPA software purchases), Public Health Excellence Grant (regional with Newtown and Belmont).
 - vi. Clinic: January 30th at Baker School 4-7pm (Flu/COVID),
 - c. Discussion
 - i. Community Health Assessment – Selected Health Resource and Action performing a marijuana impact study related to teens and young adults examining trend lines from 2020 to the present. Will involve older adults as well as younger residents and AFCC can assist and participate.
 - ii. Mental Health – Would like to examine needs and how best to address them as a community including isolation issues raised by COVID. Assistance for mental health issues available at the Senior Center/CoA.
 - iii. No community mental health/social workers in the department (use CoA).
 - iv. Rodents – First, Modern Pest provides smart boxes deployed end of November and data from catches to be compiled to see where to take further action. Second, a food safety consultant contract working on

contributing factors to rodent population increase. Third, working with DPW on revised regulations to control rodent population. Fourth, need for communication to Town on actions and situation.

4. Continued Discussion on Information Dissemination – the challenges of communicating in the information age
 - a. Brookline.News update
 - i. Planned launch April or May.
 - ii. Fund raising deals in process.
 - iii. Major ballot questions in May election need news exposure.
 - iv. Town Meeting Warrant article will give Town ability to inform registered voters about coming ballot issues including both sides of the argument.
 - v. Town Counsel's office will determine what is distributed re issues.
 - vi. Includes submissions from advocacy groups – will have to pass Town Counsel review as to accuracy with facts.
5. Update on ARPA funding Round Two – Ruthann reported
 - a. Applications are up and due.
 - b. Town Administrator compiling ARPA omnibus funding proposal for Round 2.
 - c. About \$9M available for the bidding process.
6. Pedestrian safety – James Lee
 - a. Follow-up on accessible pedestrian signals
 - i. On hold until Todd Kirrane's replacement is chosen and in place.
 - b. Report from Pedestrian Advisory Committee – John V. reported
 - i. No report.
 - c. Memo from Todd Kirrane on micromobility
 - i. Big issue to be discussed at CoD meeting.
 - ii. Heated discussion at BrooklineCAN LCAC meeting re proposed law.
 - iii. Major issue is rules for sidewalks and enforceability.
7. Guest speakers for Age-Friendly
 - a. Potential guests to invite:
 - i. Patty Sullivan – Dementia Friendly MA.
 - ii. Charles "Chas" Carey (consider for next meeting after CoA attendance)
 - iii. Amanda Hirst – new BPL director (consider for next or next+1)
 - iv. New Brookline Police Chief when hired.
 - v. New Transportation Administrator.
 - b. Recommended updates from departments be requested, e.g., Water and Sewer.
8. AARP Age Friendly City application – update on status
 - a. Significant progress by team (Ruthann, Kathy Burnes, Carol Seibert, Matt)
 - b. Final edits Goals and Accomplishments 2022 & 2023 to be reviewed by AFCC.
 - c. Hopefully ready to be on agenda for Select Board 1/31/2023 meeting.
 - d. Requires/involves inputs from the various Town departments.
9. Rodent Task Force – updates from Town Meeting
 - a. Check LCAC minutes re progress with DPW/Health rodent control program.
10. Collection of hazardous waste at Brookline site
 - a. Success working with DPW and Health setting up Senior Center collection site.
11. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Transportation
 - i. RFP proposals due next Tuesday for Newton-like program.
 - ii. Note increase in demand as restrictions loosen.

- b. Housing
 - i. HSL starting 108 Centre Street affordable housing project in February with expected completion by end of 2024.
 - ii. 112 Centre parking arrangement for Senior Center achieved with assistance of John VanScoyoc and Char Carey.
 - c. Health
 - i. Health Department Fall Prevention Program – Fall survey around 2/1.
 - ii. Blood Drive – 1/31 at Brookline Village Library
 - iii. Blood Pressure – show-up 1st Wednesday monthly 2-3pm.
 - iv. Fall prevention is Health, Fallon Ambulance and Senior Center in a couple of months.
 - d. Library
 - i. Need a staff person for AFCC meeting to be assigned.
 - e. Council on Aging (CoA)
 - i. No additional report.
 - f. Recreation – Josh reported
 - i. Nature walks monthly with Autumn Talent (Brookline Recreation Environmental Educator) replacing Stephanie Springer.
 - ii. Recent at the Arboretum.
 - iii. Registration for the spring opening 1/18.
 - iv. Each one has been sold out so far.
 - v. Register in advance so planning is facilitated.
 - vi. Senior Center and BrooklineCAN will promote the walks.
 - vii. 3 more mini-courts for pickleball at the BHS gym.
 - viii. 1/18 Brookline residents 1/19 all can register for pickleball at Tappan.
 - ix. Pickleball consistently is fully registered.
 - g. Commission on Disabilities
 - i. Maria Foster will be a guest at CoD meeting 1/11.
 - h. Communications – Age Friendly TV – Matt
 - i. Age-Friendly web updates? <https://www.brooklinema.gov/657/Age-Friendly-Cities-Committee>
 - ii. Suggested guests – Todd Kirrane, Chris Dempsey, Chas Carey.
 - iii. Michael Allen is reaching out to Todd to see if he wants to appear.
 - iv. Valerie Fletcher from Institute for Human Centered Design in the queue.
 - v. Education re reorganization possibilities for Town of Brookline.
 - vi. Recommended that department heads from past be brought back.
 - vii. Recommended attention to affordable housing
- 12. Miscellaneous & new business**
- a. Recommended more consideration of housing costs/affordable housing.
- 13. Next meeting February 14th, 2023 at 1pm**