

Minutes of the Age Friendly Cities Committee

April 20, 2021

Present: Ruthann Dobek, Nancy Heller, John Seay, Matt Weiss, Ruthann Dobek, Yolanda Rodriguez. Guests: Lynn Karsten.

1. Review of minutes of previous meetings meeting:
 - a. Approved.
2. Designate note taker
 - a. Matthew Weiss for this meeting.
3. Status of nomination of Matthew Weiss as chair
 - a. Nancy will take to Select Board with list of new members.
4. Review of committee membership
 - a. Ruthann Dobek recommended Janice Kahn as a new member.
5. Coordination of efforts to protect and enhance pedestrian experiences in Brookline
 - a. No report.
6. COVID-19 vaccine update (with emphasis on homebound residents)
 - a. See Health Committee report.
7. Discussion of Captioning for Zoom
 - a. Zoom does not provide closed captioning (CC) for .gov versions.
 - b. Business and personal versions provide CC (live transcribing).
 - c. Need advocacy of AARP and Age-Friendly Cities Committee to get CC.
8. Ruthann report on AARP Age-Friendly
 - a. AARP indicated Age-Friendly Cities recognition by AARP is relatively simple.
 - b. No cost.
 - c. Matt Weiss will work with Ruthann on AFC AARP application.
9. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Transportation – Ruthann reported
 - i. Springwell has introduced a new program of free rides for people over 60 years old with no restrictions as long as the approximately \$92,000 lasts.
 - b. Housing
 - i. CIDCR affordable housing initiative.
 - c. Health – Lynn Karsten reported.
 - i. Roland Lankah named as Assistant Director of Environment Health.
 - ii. Barbara Wesley retired from Public Health nursing.
 - iii. E.J. Bennett named Public Health Nurse.
 - iv. COVID-19 update – Ruthann reported that J&J shots planned for approximately 100 homebound but depends on availability.
 - v. Cheryl Snyder has been appointed Emergency Preparation Coordinator for the Town at the Brookline Fire Department.
 - vi. Replacing Cheryl Snyder as Public Health Emergency Coordinator is Nicole Zani of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).
 - d. Library
 - i. Friends of the Library purchased approximately 50 crafting projects for the Crafters Program for homebound older adults and will contribute a few each month.
 - e. Council on Aging (CoA) – Ruthann reported.
 - i. Senior Center is open and active.

- ii. Cynthia Creem Restaurant Program is providing lunches with 11 Brookline restaurants providing 450 meals a week (50 at the Senior Center and 400 meals at the Food Pantry).
 - iii. Restaurant Program on for 3 more weeks but looking for other funding.
 - 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.
- 10.** Commission on Disabilities update – No report.
- 11.** Age-friendly TV plans
 - a. Sandy Gadsby the retiring Town Moderator will describe the role and experience.
- 12.** Date and main agenda for next meeting – May 11, 2021 at 2pm, virtual.
- 13.** Miscellaneous – No report.
- 14.** New business
 - a. None.