

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

July 13, 2021

Present: Ruthann Dobek, John Seay, Matt Weiss, Yolanda Rodriguez, Carol Caro, Anne Reed, Saralynn Allaire, Saul Feldman, Sarah Kaplan, John VanScoyoc, Barbara Bennett, Henry Winkelman. Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee.

1. Review of minutes of previous meetings:
  - a. Unanimous approval of minutes.
2. Designate note taker
  - a. Matthew Weiss for this meeting.
3. Welcome to new members
  - a. Carol Caro was introduced as a new citizen member.
  - b. Elizabeth Bennett is a new Health Department representative standing in for Lynne Karsten at this meeting and taking over Barbara's role at the Department.
4. Status of formal membership list and formal installation of new co-chair
  - a. John VanScoyoc say no further action is required once Matt Weiss was selected as co-chair by the Age Friendly Cities Committee.
  - b. Carol Caro has been sworn in as a member of the Age Friendly Cities Committee.
5. Review of Accomplishments & Goals document
  - a. Ruthann Dobek indicated the report is to be forwarded to the UN WHO, AARP and the Brookline Select Board., with the Select Board as first recipient.
  - b. Committee discussed each of the items in the draft document.
  - c. Discussion followed as to the format and substance of each of the sections.
  - d. Suggestions included:
    - i. Anne Reed – Two sets of goals, ongoing and yearly sub goals.
    - ii. Carol Caro – Example would be make Brookline a more liveable environment for older adults.
    - iii. John VanScoyoc – Boston Age Friendly City action plan, a good model, was produced over three years with 75 items that were then handed over to the Council on Aging to manage the implementation.
    - iv. Matt Weiss – Contact representative of Boston Age Friendly Commission.
    - v. Carol Caro – Send Frank Caro related documents to AFC committee.
    - vi. John VanScoyoc – Link to Boston material.  
<https://www.boston.gov/departments/age-strong-commission/age-friendly-boston>
    - vii. Housing discussion focused on Kent/Station Street, Col. Floyd, and Centre Street related to bids, plans and impact on Senior Center.
    - viii. Question was raised as to which positions are the age friendly positions for the AFC committee to take such as parking for new housing, transportation options for housing for older adults.
    - ix. DPW and Transportation Board are key to transportation for older adults.
    - x. Note – AFC made significant progress in area of transportation with TRIPPS, Complete Streets, and the Pedestrian Advisory Committee.
    - xi. AFC and TRIPPS track goals, plans, actions, completions by DPW.
    - xii. AFC needs formal approach to tracking.

- xiii. Deidre Waxman retired re REAP report – Plan is to hire a replacement, but accomplishment was the program continuing despite COVID.
    - xiv. Goal is to produce the report to the Select Board with an action plan that revives the AFC committee following COVID
- 6.** Extension of Open Meeting Law legislation – No report.
- 7.** Subcommittee Reports
  - a. Transportation – No report.
  - b. Housing
    - i. CDICR affordable housing initiative – No report
  - c. Health
    - i. No report.
  - d. Library
    - i. No report.
  - e. Council on Aging (CoA)
    - i. Saul Feldman pointed out that the sidewalks in front of the Senior Center need extensive repair. (To be followed up by Ruthann).
  - f. Recreation
    - i. Carol Caro indicated disappointment with the program for older adults this year.
  - g. Commission on Disabilities update
- 8.** Age-friendly TV plans – Matt Weiss reported.
  - a. John VanScoyoc will be Episode 33.
- 9.** Date and main agenda for next meeting – August 17, 2021 at 1pm, virtual.
- 10.** Miscellaneous
  - a. None.
- 11.** New business
  - a. None.