

## **BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes August 21, 2024**

Attendees: Janet Gelbart, Susan Granoff, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Sonia Wong, Bea Mikulecky. Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee

### **1. Brookline Day**

- a) Volunteers to staff BrooklineCAN table: Melissa, Janet, John, David, Velda, and Ruth. Susan G. if she is physically up to it.
- b) Ruth will also contact Ellen Bick, Susan Cohen and the Memolos.
- c) Sonia will supply materials including updated brochures and the September Newsletter and sign-in sheet.
- d) Janet will see if she has LCAC handout and update it.
- e) Bea to create a posterboard for the table which states our mission as listed on the front page of the newsletter.

### **2. Follow up on BrooklineCAN brochure and lapsed letter**

New brochures due on Friday. Sandy has sent out new letter to some people who did not renew but is unclear on the instructions. Ruth will follow up.

### **3. Update on COA Director's Succession**

- a) Ruth (BrooklineCAN), Yolanda (COA), and Susan G. (Advisory Committee) will all be part of the search process. Group may also include Betsy Pollack. Other members unknown. No COA staff will be included. Still have not seen the job description.
- b) Process to start in late August. Position will be posted after Labor Day with a 30-day deadline. Panel will meet in mid-September to discuss process and develop interview questions with interviews to be held in October. Final recommendations will be made to COA in early November and Select Board in mid-September.
- c) Chas will attend the COA meeting on September 11 at 1 p.m. to review the process in more detail.

### **4. Ongoing discussion of BrooklineCAN goals and priorities**

- a) Little progress made on goals and priorities from last year.

- b) Bea: can we get students from Simmons to help with a project on outreach and publicity? Bea would follow up with Simmons if Ruthann tells her the process. We would ask students to help us set up focus groups and develop our message. Bea to discuss further with Ruthann. Janet agreed to help Bea work with the students.
- c) What can we do that's attainable? David's memo last month said we are in crisis but we are not acting that way.
- d) Ruth would like to reactivate age friendly business project but we need someone to lead it.
- e) What's the advantage of working with BrooklineCAN instead of the COA? Susan – we offer more flexibility, less red tape, no open meeting law requirement and informal involvement with the Town.
- f) Call a meeting with 7-8 goals posted on the wall and ask people to volunteer to work on them. But we need someone to coordinate the meeting, follow-up with volunteers on next steps. David – committees pick their own leaders. Our job is to bootstrap the process.
- g) To be continued at our next meeting.

**5. Review of BrooklineCAN co-sponsorship of Race and Song: A Musical Conversation On Wednesday, July 31 at 1:00 pm at the Brookline Senior Center**

- a) Meeting was well attended. 7-12 people signed up for the newsletter and sign-in sheets were left for Sandy to process.
- b) Should we follow up when we host events? Can post things on the website but it doesn't get much traffic. Who would do the follow up?

**6. Update on 108 Centre Street**

Lottery was held today. Notifications will be sent out within 2 weeks.

**7. Update on Brookline's AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities –**

Discussion postponed.

**8. Committee Reports**

- a) LCAC (Janet)

- I. Discussion of the draft survey
  1. will add introductory sentence – “You are receiving this email because...”
  2. add question re: detailed minutes
  3. additional wordsmithing
  4. Janet to send revised draft to committee
  5. John to explore feasibility of using a survey monkey type vehicle
- II. Next meeting is set for September 9 with presentations by Roger Blood about affordable housing and John Sea and Carol Caro on the Age-Friendly Cities Committee
- III. Janet will take notes in September but asked for others to volunteer for future meetings

b) Treasurer's Report (John)

Membership down to 188. Operated in the red for 11 months of fiscal 2024 because of declining membership.

**9. Next Steering Committee meeting: SEPTEMBER 18 at 3:00 PM via Zoom**

**BrooklineCAN Membership as of 8/16/24: 188**

**BrooklineCAN Membership as of 7/12/24: 196**

**BrooklineCAN Membership as of 6/21/24: 194**

**BrooklineCAN Membership as of 5/13/24: 190**