

Concord Council on Aging Board meeting minutes

February 24, 2020

Present: Michael Rudd (sub chair), Ann Schummers, Arthur Alcaez, Milton Cohen, Patty Keane, Andrea Zall (finance committee observer), Theresa Stokes (Guest), Ginger Quarles, Margaret Hoag

Special Guest: Gary Kleiman, NMI/Starmet Reuse Committee (referred to as the SRC in these minutes).

Absent: Kristin Nelson, Carole Cushing, Christina Kendrick, Carol Ann Hannan and Terri Ackerman (Select Board Liasion)

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes were duly approved with a correction to the spelling of Arthur Alcaez's name.

Guest Presentation: Gary Kleiman, NMI/Starmet Reuse

The NMI/Starmet Reuse Committee (SRC) is reaching out concerning how to reuse the superfund site in Concord. They want feedback concerning the needs of the Town. Currently there is a master reuse plan. Questions still to be resolved include use of site (mixed use, recreational areas, open space) and financing issues.

The Starmet site is not currently completely clean. The consent decree was signed in December and will lead to government funding. It is expected to be cleaned up by 2026. The reuse committee is charged with developing a reuse plan because the plan will affect the cleanup. Report to the Select Board is due in December 2020.

The town does not own the property. There are a lot of liens on the property.

The SRC wants to have mixed use rather than a single use. They want it to be financially self-sustaining so that taxes do not increase. The Master Plan includes about half for conservation land. The area where the Starmet building was located (9.4 acres) will be developed for housing etc. The rest could be developed in the future.

Ideas for the developed space:

- 1 Huge multi-use building for recreation, community center, senior center etc.
- 2 Office/medical complex. Housing and playing fields. Open space.
- 3 Mixed use to include housing, recreation/entertainment, restaurants/retail/office, artisan space, fields/open space.

The committee spent some time discussing what seniors would want. The Board does not believe that the site is a suitable location for a senior center. Affordable housing would be key.

Minuteman Report: No report.

Housing Authority: No report.

Disability Commission: No report.

Concord Over 60: No report.

Chair Report: No report.

COA Director's Report:

Ginger has received an invitation from the Friends of the Aging to attend their next board meeting on March 13.

Maynard's Open Pantry has started dropping off food supplies at the COA, for those eligible, once per month, starting last Wednesday. Eight people came. Maynard Pantry said that this was intended for those who could not drive, but Ginger pointed out to them that many saw less stigma in coming to the COA than to the Pantry.

Ginger is now recruiting for a new full-time Outreach Coordinator and has received 22 applications. The first round of interviews will start this Friday. There will then be a second round of interviews, including with the assistant town manager, for the promising applicants.

The COA newsletter printer has agreed to convert to color printing for the monthly newsletter. There will be a slight increase in advertising prices, but no increase to the COA.

A complaint against the COA was filed with our state representative's office, by the Minuteman ARC, for discrimination against the disabled. On contacting the Minuteman ARC, Ginger found that the alleged discrimination was against a member's companion who was under 60 and not allowed to attend a COA event.

At our March 16 meeting, Ginger will present her budget for the coming fiscal year. Accordingly, the meeting will start half-an-hour earlier than usual, at 5:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned.