

CITY OF GARDNER

MASSACHUSETTS 01440

COUNCIL ON AGING



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COUNCIL ON AGING - Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

February 7, 2022, 2pm Senior Center

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOoEXA1cpyE>

Present: - Director, Mike Ellis, Chair, Ron Darmetka, Secretary, Kathy O'Brien. Golden Agers Rep, Gloria Tarpey, Audrey Faucher

Associate Members: Ken Fournier, Mary Shaffer, Paul Leone, Nancy Hebert

Absent: AARP President Patricia Jandris, COA Treasurer Terri Hillman, Evelyn McCarthy, Cheryl Howes, Richard Girardin

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm by Chair Ron Darmetka

2. Minutes:

Motion made and carried to accept the January 3, 2022, meeting were read and accepted by Kathy O'Brien/Audrey Faucher, 5/0.

3. Treasurers' Report*

Director Mike Ellis reported the General Fund account has a balance of \$90,512.45, will likely need a supplemental budget due status and position titles by employees and use of overtime due to storms.

The Gift Fund account has a balance of \$49,935.43. There was a donation received in the memory of Leo Richards.

The Revolving Fund account has a balance of \$33,451.39, including first installment of \$5000 from the Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging which is earmarked/encumbered.

The State Grant had a carry over from last year of \$9600. We expect to receive a minimum grant of \$49,464.72 this year from EOEA. There is a

budgeted increase in state grant revenues for 2022. Our actual balance shows a deficit of \$5,556, which does not reflect the current year grant revenues of \$49,464.72 which we have not received contracts for this year. We are able to deficit spend until money comes in. We had budgeted a certain amount for the outreach coordinator but have not been able to fill it. We are hoping to restructure these positions to a few part time positions.

Detailed reports provided. State Grant contracts expected in January/February time frame.

**In the absence of the Treasurer, the Treasury Report was submitted prior to the meeting and reported to the assembly by the Director of The Council, Michael Ellis.*

Motion to accept the Treasury Report made by Audrey Faucher, second by K. O'Brien, motion carried 5-0.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Covid update –

Senior Center was closed for a week due to the fact that both Nancy and Mike had covid. During that time Rob did a deep clean throughout the center and was able to do some maintenance we couldn't do while center was being used.

While Sr. Center office was closed, thanks to the new phone system, staff was still able to assist members when necessarily remotely.

The Center received more covid test kits and will make them more readily available.

Covid Clinic scheduled for March 2. Mike reviewed stats and numbers of people who are still not vaccinated.

Programs and services in the Center and building have been modified to manage COVID.

b. Board Vacancy-

Have not had a chance to meet with anyone regarding the vice chairman position and open board position.

Nancy Hebert has put in application for Associate Member position. Ron D. provided overview of experience and community involvement. Paul asked for a current list of members of the Board. Motion was made and carried to

approve Nancy Hebert as Associate Member of the Council on Aging, Motion made by Kathy O'Brien, seconded by Audrey Fauscher, 5-0.

c. Listening Sessions

Working on scheduling, issues with gathering with COVID and staffing vacancies at senior housing facilities. Hoping to have within a week or so. Mike explained the purpose and goal of the listening sessions is to get feedback, opinions and information from folks not connected to the center, and what are the programs we can provide that are relevant and needed. Our staff is also working on marketing and communication plan.

Transportation is definitely an issue, especially in winter, weather and parking. Reached out to MART and GAAMHA to create a loop between all senior housing facilities and Senior Center.

Looking for board members to assist in facilitating the meetings. Important to have face of the community be present for meetings and engaged in identifying and developing new programs and services. Hoping to expand to visioning and strategic planning for the Council on Aging.

d. Senior Aid

The Center was given a small grant from the Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging and therefore has a limited amount of resources to assist seniors who have an unexpected expense.

We are working in collaboration with the Gardner CAC to do intake and eligibility.

There is a tremendous need due to water damage and housing issues. We assist seniors with temporary housing while applying for emergency housing, health insurance, social security and social security disability, transportation services, utilities and phone plans.

Ron Darmetka read a letter the COA received regarding assistance given to a community senior. Mike acknowledged the work of the community to make many of these things work including MICAH Bolduc who performed the work.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Boiler issue

Center had to close for a few days because of boiler issue. Mike expressed gratitude to Royal Steam Heater and staff for being so flexible and dedicated.

b. Programs

Center is fully open for programs and services. Took a short break for Bingo, Knitting and Quilting and Bridge during bad weather in Feb. All programs will start back up in full in March. Caregiver support group and LGBTQI Groups up and running. Tax Aide is helping 75 plus people this year. Golden Agers meeting regularly. Gardner Rehab and Baldwinville Nursing have been hosting a ton of great programs which were mentioned. St Patricks Day hoping for dinner and program.

Congregate Meals are open—come and join us for lunch. Asking folks to spread the word.

Senior Moments TV Program has been very well received. Outreach calls have surpassed 3000. Approximately 1800 newsletters are distributed monthly with new receptacles being placed at key locations. Electronic communications increased significantly.

c. Volunteers

Looking for volunteers in a variety of areas including library, and office assistance. Looking for assistance with soft case management to assist in case management. Diaper Pantry and Heywood Hospital looking for help from the senior community.

d. Infrastructure

New computers/upgraded computers coming for library. Rocking chairs have been put in library to make it more comfortable and inviting.

Ovens may be installed in kitchen due to the work and support of the Gardner CAC. May need to do additional work on vents. Ramp may need to have repairs. Working on getting air purifiers, food warmers, ice machine, containers etc for food service operations.

e. donations

Gardner Rehab provided \$600 cash donation, Sterilite gave center and CAC donation of containers, DVDS from Steve Rockwood, Rockers for center, durable medical equipment.

f. services

Working on Comcast reduction for seniors, reduced fees for dog licensing, and service provider list for seniors looking to get work done.

6. OPEN DISCUSSION

Ron discussed need for listing of tradesman for seniors in Gardner. Would be good reduce amount of running around for our seniors trying to find someone qualified to do the work they need done. Suggestion was made to connect with Monty Tech.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, March 7, 2022, at 2p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by Kathy O'Brien, 2nd by Audrey Fauscher, carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen O'Brien

Secretary