

CITY OF GARDNER
MASSACHUSETTS 01440
COUNCIL ON AGING

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COUNCIL ON AGING - Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

May 10, 2022 @ 2pm Senior Center

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_k4IQbuNs4

Present: - Director Michael Ellis, Chairman Ron Darmetka, Secretary Kathy O'Brien, Treasurer Terri Hillman, Golden Agers Representative Gloria Tarpey, AARP President Patricia Jandris

Associate Members: Richard Girardin, Mary Shaffer, Paul Leone, Nancy Hebert

Absent: Evelyn McCarthy, Cheryl Howes, Audrey Faucher, Ken Fournier

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 minutes of the April 4, 2022, Kathy O'Brien/Gloria Tarpey, 5-0

3. Treasurers' Report

Treasurer, Terri Hillman presented a financial report for the period ending April 30, 2022. Terri reported the City General Fund/Operating has an ending balance of \$37,280.69. In the month of April we spent \$14,882.95. The Gift Account had an expense in April of \$44.95. Mike noted this was a charge to an incorrect account and will be reclassified. The Gift Fund received a couple gifts including Knowlton Foundation of \$875 and Gift for Memory of Leo Richard for \$25. The Revolving Account has a balance of \$27,888.41. In April we spent \$6521.93, there is a breakdown by category included in the report. The State Grant Account \$34,368.68. There is an incorrect notation on detail report noting the grant had not been received but it has been received. Question was asked about emergency housing. Mike reminded group we received a small grant for emergency assistance for seniors including housing, food, and emergency repairs. Repairs are reported as expenses under two accounts

because of timing for funding but will be reclassified at the end of year to one fund. Motion and carried to accept budget report, Gloria Tarpey/Kathy O'Brien. 5/0

4. Election of Officers:

- a. **Chairman:** motion made and carried to close nomination and cast one ballot to elect Ron Darmetka as Chair, Hillman/Jandris, 4-0.
- b. **Vice Chairman:** Motion made carried to table election of Vice Chair until June 2022 meeting, Hillman/Jandris, 5-0.
- c. **Treasurer:** motion made and carried to cast one ballot to close nominations and elect Theresa Hillman as Treasurer, Jandris/O'Brien, 5-0.
- d. **Secretary:** motion made and carried to cast one ballot to close nominations and elect Kathy O'Brien as Secretary, Hillman/Darmetka, 5-0.
- e. **CEO:** motion made and carried to have Chairman appoint Michael Ellis as CEO of the Council on aging for a period of two years to coincide with appointment by the City as Director of the Council on Aging in compliance with Article 7, Section 2 of the By-Laws, Hillman/O'Brien, 5-0.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Covid update:** Covid cases up a bit since last month. Mike will enact a short term policy, 30 days, if needed and will come back to the Board for a policy discussion and vote. We reach out to Heywood Infectious Diseases, CHC CHC and Department of Health for advise. Next booster clinic to take place June 1, 2022 at the Senior Center starting at 12:30 with the last appointment at 5:45. All vaccines are available. Registration is recommended but walk-ins welcome. Lots of test kits available at Senior Center. Vaccine Team and volunteers well trained. Nancy Hebert question if KN-95 masks are available as well. Mike wasn't sure they would or could be. Mike has masks for use at the center but not for general distribution.
- b. **By Laws:** Mike asked to have a group convened to review and make recommendations for the By Laws. There has also been a request to have the City Charter reviewed as well to ensure consistency between the two documents. Will have to wait until we get guidance and response on Charter and Ordinances pertaining to Senior Center. Group would make recommendations and bring it back to COA and City Council for review and approval.
- c. **Trade Resources:** There has not been much movement of identifying and resourcing Trades people. New pamphlet boards will be added at Center.
- d. **Listening Session:** Our Listening Sessions at the Senior Center will conclude on May 23, 2022. Additional sessions will be scheduled this summer at Binnall and Gardner Housing Authority. Ron gave overview and purpose of sessions.

Sessions not limited to people who are already engaged in Sr Center but also those who may not use the center while considering the fact that we need to be able to handle more people safely- have had a number of issues on stairs therefore we will have to maneuver people in a way to keep them safe. In addition, we are limited for space physically to add programs, and finally, even if we do have new programs or different programs we have to consider the limited parking for our center participants. Ron also mentioned that a lot of people don't know where we are, and suggested a sign at the top of Willow St directing people to the Center. Mike has addressed this and also requested one at the bottom of Pleasant at West Broadway, and thanked the responsiveness of the lines and signs department to our requests. There was some discussion about lines on the street as well. This is being reviewed by the City.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Directors Report –

- Overflow Parking at Mission of Grace Church
- Intergenerational Programs this summer involving numerous programs.
- New Yoga Instructor- Stephanie Lizotte
- Need blocks and mats for yoga for public use
- Seasonal Stroll, senior swim and water aerobics .
- Quilters Guild meets at night, support groups meet at night, maybe evening meal soon
- Technology classes hope to be offering
- Legal Considerations Session on June 7
- Financial Planning seminar this fall
- RHR Real Estate Program getting house ready to sell
- Support groups, vet-to-vet, Igbtqi, Caregivers, Menders, Tops
- Electronic message boards now implemented on all floors
- Senior Moments recorded once a month, and played many times over 3 weeks, recognized WGET for all their support for center and community, WGET very flexible and helpful.
- Social media posts have increased substantially, lots going on, please like and follow the Senior Center
- Nutrition and food including in house meals and meals on wheels, not quite up to same numbers are pre-covid
- Snap and HIP applications every week by HOPE and DTA
- Every other Tuesday we have Tasting Tuesdays sponsored by CAC
- COVID, tests, clinics
- Medicare Counseling available through the Center through SHINE and Integrity Medicare Advisors
- Social Security and Disability Applications

- Health Fair this fall, looking at other locations to accommodate
 - Travel, WOOSOX and others
 - Summer BBQ- huge crowd, served about 225 people.
 - Volunteer Recognition on August 31
 - Breakfast with a Badge includes Drug Take Back Program, 3rd Thursdays of the month.
 - Review of Kentucky Derby- lots of great comments and reviews
 - Job Fair on May 18
 - Concert Series began this month
 - Movie Matinee now once a month
 - Flag Day Ceremony will be big event and include veteran recognition- Brigadier General Smith will be speaker
 - Elder care Program
 - Hydroponic Gardens request approved and should be delivered soon
 - Cooking program hopefully kicking off soon using slow cookers
 - Golden Agers- Golden Agers have had a robust group of participants every month. CASA to speak at Golden Agers this month. Golden Age Club very inexpensive to join and be a member. Amasa Fiske White to be speaker next month. Display of his work in auditorium/big hall.
 - AARP meeting again, first meeting to be annual meeting and installation of officers. Low cost to join. Encouraged members to join and or renew.
 - Shredding event August 20.
 - September 7th, AARP Drivers ED Program
 - Community Leadership- acknowledged the assistance and support of so many people who make the center really work. Can we get a schedule ahead of time when the program will air. Ron pulled schedule for us this cycle. Nancy commented on how informative it was and that she learned a lot about the center even being very involved. Please thank those who help
 - Capital Improvement- food warmer, ice machine, air purifiers- about \$35k of improvements by Mayor and Council. New signage, lighting, color changes to improve safety on stairs
 - Helen Lindstrom asked about restoring Cribbage Boards. Members answered call and working on these now.
- b. Gifts-** the Center has received a number of donations of cash, durable medical equipment, furniture, bins and buckets for storage, and other supplies including DVDS, books, flags, medical bags and supplies, and face masks. Mike asked the Chair to consider a motion by Board to accept donations as listed by Mike to send to Council to accept, Jandris/O'Brien, 5-0. Mike informed the board of process of logging donations and their values. Cash receipts are logged by staff with a second signature obtained at time of receipt.

c. Associate Member Status/Applications

The following Associate Member Applications were received and approved-

1. Paul Crowley- motion made and carried to approve, O'Brien/Tarpey, 5-0
2. Tracy Hutchinson- motion made and carried to approve, Jandris/Tarpey, 5-0
3. Dan Kelly- motion made and carried to approve, Jandris/Tarpey, 5-0
4. Del Peterson- motion made and carried to approve. Jandris, O'Brien, 5-0

Mike updated Board on other applicants who may be coming up in future meetings.

6. OPEN DISCUSSION

There was no other discussion

7. NEXT MEETING DATE is Monday June 6, 2022 at 2p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn made and carried, O'Brien/Jandris, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen O'Brien, Secretary