

CITY OF GARDNER

MASSACHUSETTS 01440

COUNCIL ON AGING

Charles P. McKean Building
294 Pleasant Street



T: (978) 630-4067
F: (978) 632-5965

COUNCIL ON AGING - Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

June 6, 2022 @ 2pm Senior Center

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkmOoFMb6fI>

Present: - Director Michael Ellis, Chairman Ron Darmetka, Paul Leone, Secretary Kathy O'Brien, COA Treasurer Terri Hillman, AARP Representative Patricia Jandris

Associate Members: Ken Fournier, Mary Shaffer, Tracey Hutchinson, Nancy Hebert, Daniel J. Kelley

Absent: Evelyn McCarthy, Cheryl Howes, Richard Girardin, Audrey Faucher Paul Crowley, Michael Gerry, Deb Bernard, Adelle Peterson

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 2:05 pm by Chair Ron Darmetka

2. MINUTES:

Motion made and carried to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2022 meeting. Patricia Jandris/Paul Leone, 5/0

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Tracey Hutchinson and Dan Kelley

4. TREASURERS' REPORT`

Material and reports included in your packet. As of May 31, 2022, Treasurer, Terri Hillman reported the City General Fund/Operating Account has an ending balance of \$25,020.79 and must last us through June 30. Negative balances on some accounts but Mike will request transfers to balance out. Two areas we saw increases were in salaries- which are adjusted after the beginning of the fiscal year- and then items in the operating expenses will have line-item transfers to balance out.

The Gift Account has an ending balance of \$52,670.48. There was a \$44.95 expense posted to this account, but it will be reclassified to Revolving Fund. The Revolving Account has a balance of \$32,105.83. A list of expenses was included in the report. Balance will be carried forward in the next fiscal year.

State Grant Account, ending balance \$29,814.51. A list of expenses for the State Grant was included in the Financial Report.

Mike provided a brief explanation of the budget and various accounts.

Motion to accept Financial Report, Kathy O'Brien/ Pat Jandris, motion carried 5/0.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Paul Leone was appointed by Mayor and approved by City Council as a full appointed member of the Board of the Council on Aging.

Motion to elect Paul Leone as Vice Chair, Terri Hillman/Kathy O'Brien, motion carried, 5/0.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Covid update** – There has been an increase covid cases. When someone informs the Senior Center that they have been diagnosed with Covid, notification goes out to those that have been contact with that person. June 1 Clinic for Covid Vaccination was very successful.
- b. By-Laws** - City Hall has not responded to Senior Center desire to review/revise the By-Laws. The City is very busy with end of fiscal year reports, etc. Will bring up this subject again in September. Ken Fournier asked the question of who can suggest what a By-Law should be. Mike explained the procedure.
- c. Trade Resources** – Mike has aggressively searched for tradesmen to participate in this program, but all are very busy. Anyone looking to hire someone would have a long wait. Look at re-visiting in fall.
- d. Listening Sessions** – Had three sessions, two of the Listening Sessions were very well attended and many good ideas were suggested. The Listening Sessions were explained to the new Associate Members. The Senior Center is hoping that there will be more sessions during the summer at the Binnall House and Gardner Housing Authority.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Director's Report –

Legal Considerations, Flag Day & Veteran's Recognition Program, AARP Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers, Golden Age with Ayn Yeagle, Hydroponic Gardens, Breakfast with a Badge and Drug Take Back Program, Closed Juneteenth, Dawn Kelley Music, Vet to Vet Café, Summer Outing on 7/20, Growing Place (6 hydroponic gardens – waiting for 6 growing lights), 8/17 Woosox game, 8/20 Shredding event, 9/7 AARP Safe Drivers Program. Have a slew of other events going on beside the listed events. Communication is the main key to getting the word out there about all our programs.

Vet-to-Vet program very successful. Brought three vans to American Heritage Museum-over 40 Vets. Thank you to Beacon Hospice and We Honor Veterans Program. Thank you to GAAMHA for providing transportation services for the VET to Vet and AARP Meeting Shuttle services.

Mike thanked the many volunteers who help make programs successful, He also mentioned community partners and City Organization/Departments for their assistance.

6. OPEN DISCUSSION – Paul Leone asked about the status of the Out-Reach Coordinator. Search is still in progress, hampered by low pay being offered.

Mike spoke about staff and the great work they do.

Paul asked about update for Sapphire Park. Mike noted we had but is optimistic that they will allow us to install a newsletter box in the mail hut. Paul noted that wind and other materials impact our ability to get newsletters out. Paul will follow up with management.

Mike noted that the Volunteers have been awesome. He also mentioned need for volunteers at the Hospital, Golden Age Club and AARP.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE is Monday, September 12, 2022 (second Monday due to holiday) at 2:00 p.m. Generally, there are no meetings of the COA in July and August unless emergency or special meeting is called. Meetings may be called at any time with notice by the Chair or by members of the COA when needed.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn made by O'Brien/Leone, 5-0

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen O'Brien, Secretary