

COA Minutes
April 19, 2022

Called to order at:

Attendance: Frank, Jim, Betty, Debbie, Howard, Jinx, Colleen

Minutes

The March minutes were submitted for approval. There were no questions nor discussion.

Frank moved that they be approved; Debbie seconded.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

In Tony's absence, there was no treasurer's report to discuss.

Chair's Report:

Frank spoke to expectations of COA Board Members. First, we are an advisory board, not supervisory. We can counsel and advice, but we do not direct the Director. When we act as volunteers, we are under the direct supervision of Director. We cannot engage in fund raising. We can support fund raising, but not organize it.

We refrain from any type of administration operational control.

Colleen does not need to get our approval for expenditures.

Debbie asked about working on grants. She can do this.

Questions for Colleen that are COA related should go through Frank.

Jinx wanted some clarification, especially in regards to the Age Friendly Community initiative.

Frank is reluctant to go into too much detail about the bylaws/policies and procedure, since the MCOA is currently rewriting their guidelines. For that reason, he also has concerns about our bylaws. Debbie asked some questions about the process of revising bylaws that Frank answered.

Jinx asked about training videos, if they exist. Frank mentioned that prior to COVID we had in person training.

We discussed the example of what happens when someone completes another person's term. The current bylaws allow for two complete terms in addition to the completion of a former member's term.

Frank asked if everyone has completed the LGBTQ training. Howard has not yet.

There will be a Veteran's Discussion on April 28 in Erving. Frank shared a notice regarding this.

We discussed if we want to march in the Memorial Day Parade. The last time we did this Bill McGee put together a kazoo band. Seniors marched with the banner. The parade starts at TCC, stops at the bridge for a short ceremony. Then we proceed to Pentecost Cemetery. Then we walk to NES, then to the town hall for some presentations at the memorial. The parade starts at 10:00 we believe.

Director's Report:

Colleen discussed more about parade. We will represent the different activities we offer. HBB and Happy Feet can wear the tee shirts representing these programs. She does not want a kazoo band, but perhaps an antique auto for those who cannot march.

Colleen is up to 36 items to order for the Happy Feet teeshirts/hats.

The Kick-off walk with kindergarteners is on May 2. Karen Boudreau and Betty are helping to organize this. We will walk from the pavilion to NES, back to the pavilion for juice/goodies then bring the students back to NES. There will be two monthly walks with the kindergarteners before the end of school. These will start around 10:40. The first one will be on May 10.

The lock box program has been going well. Triad will provide up to 30 free lock boxes. Chief Hall will order all that we can.

We need a volunteer for write-up for May newsletter. Jinx will write it. Howard volunteered for June.

Villages Learning Series #4 discussed different services that are out there for seniors. If we have questions, ask Colleen. The program is very user friendly.

During the week after Mother's Day, May 9 - 12, Kelly Brown, daughter of Arlene Kilpatrick, is coming to honor her mother in memoriam by displaying her mother's art work.

The St Thomas Aquinas Happy Feet walk will be Tuesday May 31 at 9:30. They want us to sign up so that they will have an idea of numbers. We will meet at the registration office at the college.

Frank asked if anyone had trouble signing up for the desired challenge on the Walk Massachusetts Challenge. It seems to be a common problem. They are not offering swag this year. This year the site automatically applied registrations to the town where the registrant lived. Colleen contacted the MCOA about this and they agreed to change it so that one can support a COA in a town other than where s/he lives.

There will be a COVID clinic on Wednesday, May 4 12:30 to 3:30. People should register ahead of time.

Legislation: Nothing new

N@H: Betty summarized new computer format, brunch for volunteers, annual meeting, and new membership fee scale. Colleen asked how many families we serve. Betty guessed somewhere in the 40 - 50 range.

Other Items

Jinx asked about setting a one-year and five-year plan for the senior center. We will discuss this in the future. We discussed participation numbers in programs such as knitting and TED talks.

Quick discussion of bylaws. First, they will be bylaws. Frank summarized some possible revisions that we will discuss at the next meeting.

Jinx noted that Judie Tate is not mentioned as a board member on the website.

Jinx was curious about when the formula grant money becomes available. She also asked about the number of seniors and in town.

Jim moved to adjourn. Betty seconded it.
Meeting adjourned at 14:10

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Whitcomb

Approved on: 5/17/22

Approved by: Elizabeth Whitcomb Secretary COA
Colleen R. LeTourneau Director COA
Senior Center