

COA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

16 March 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair, Linda Johnson. She read Governor Baker's Order, Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, which includes an extension of the March 12, 2020, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. This meeting was a hybrid gathering conducted both in person and via Zoom.

Present: Jane Donnelly, Paul Foley, Sue Ruskin Friend, Robert Froh, Vida Goldstein, Joan Heilbronner (Vice Chair), Linda Johnson (Chair), Wayne Johnson, Brian Kardon, Jean MacQuiddy, Tom Nicholson (Associate Member), Carol Ott, Sue Pauker, Shirley Small Rougeau (Associate Member), and Kristen Frady (Acting Director, ex officio)

Absent: Alice Benson (Associate Member), Betsey Brew Boyd, Prather Palmer (Treasurer), and Gerri Scoll (Associate Member)

Guests: Joan Ingersoll

Resident Concerns and Comments: None

Review and Approve Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on February 16, 2023 were approved unanimously as submitted.

Acting Director's Report (Kristen Frady)

Kristen thanked Board members for all their support during the two months she served as Acting Director and the Board expressed their appreciation to Kristen for her taking on that role in addition to her regular job.

Kristen mentioned the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on 4/21 and asked that Board members sign up to help staff the event. She noted the success of the recent housing panel discussion and announced upcoming events and programs. She requested the Board's help in promoting the Women in World Jazz concert and the Dementia webinar series. There was discussion of various ways to get the word out about COA programs.

Treasurer's Report

There was no report. There are continuing problems with getting timely and informative budget reports and Prather met with Susan Kelley in the Finance Department recently to discuss resolution of these problems. Brian commented that as we consider funding issues, it would be useful to know Weston's per capita spending on older adults and how that compares to other towns as well as other benchmarks.

Unified Planning Committee Update (Joan Heilbronner)

So far one person has come forward who is very interested in serving as the COA's designee to the UPC. Board members were asked to advise Joan and Linda of any other potential candidates right away so they can be interviewed.

Governance Committee Report (Joan Heilbronner)

The Board Handbook is going to the printer today and will be available at the COA for pick-up very soon.

The Select Board timetable for appointments to fill board vacancies is still TBD. Everyone was encouraged to continue recruitment efforts because we don't know if all candidates will actually apply and we need to have people in the pipeline for future vacancies.

The 2024 officer slate will be discussed at the next Governance Committee meeting on April 11. If anyone is interested in being considered for a leadership role, please let Joan and Linda know. Jane asked whether the one-year terms for Chair and Vice-Chair can be extended and there was discussion about whether a one-year officer term made sense. Linda noted that while the Select Board has indicated a preference for one-year terms, it is not a rule. Carol mentioned there is no consistency among all the different boards in town with regard to officer terms. This topic will be discussed further by GovCom.

Strategic Initiative Committee Report (Tom Nicholson)

Tom encouraged everyone to review the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) summary draft that was distributed ahead of the meeting and asked for feedback in the next two weeks. The SIC will be refining this draft at their next meeting. Wayne and Tom plan to meet with Joan I soon to discuss it. It is TBD how this work will dovetail with the efforts of the UPC, but certainly the COA's designee should also be a member of the SIC. Tom thanked Joan H for all her work in producing the SWOT summary. There was discussion about the need for an update to the 2019 Needs Assessment survey.

Community Connections Committee (Vida Goldstein)

Vida reviewed recent programs advanced by the CCC including the housing panel and a health series. Jane talked about recent programs supported by the Social Justice group including International Day of Peace, Hidden Brookline tour, MLK Breakfast, and the Chasing Me to the Grave program with the library. She asked members to save-the-date for the 3rd Race Amity Day on June 11 which will focus on indigenous people. Paul reported on his talks with Chaiwoo Lee, a research scientist at MIT's AgeLab, regarding a possible program relationship. There was a lot of enthusiasm for inviting a speaker to a Board meeting as well as a tour of the AgeLab. Shirley thanked Kristen for all the support she has provided to the CCC.

Other Business

In Betsey's absence, Joan H gave an update on plans for the Celebrate Weston event which will take place on May 20, 11am-3pm. She encouraged Board members to save-the-date and plan to volunteer to help represent the COA that day.

Carol, who sits on the Elderly Housing Committee, reported that a Friendly 40-B proposal for about 20 housing units for older adults at the former Sunrise property is still alive. The kitchen and public spaces would be absorbed by housing units in order to make the project financially viable for the owner. Discussions continue.

Jean said she recently attended an MWRTA advisory board meeting. There is a new manager there who seems to be a real pro. There have been mixed reviews of the micro-transit pilot in Wellesley which may be of interest to Weston. We need more information about the Wellesley project.

Linda brought up the Bird Dog list (Town boards and committees that need covered by COA Board members) and there was discussion about culling the list and making sure we are covering the most important bases. Everyone was asked again to review the list, make suggestions for culling, and consider their coverage commitment.

Board members were asked to let Linda know if they have any suggestions about how to make the communications flow easier to manage. It is important to review materials sent out in between and in advance of meetings in order to be prepared for discussions.

It was reported that Board donations made directly to the COA in FY22 as well as FY23 totaled \$4,150 from 6 individuals.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40am.

Next Meeting:

April 20, 2023 at 8:30am

*Respectfully submitted by Linda M. Johnson
18 April 2023*