

COA BOARD MEETING MINUTES 15 June 2023

This hybrid meeting was called to order at 8:33am by Chair, Linda Johnson. She read the new introduction required by the Commonwealth:

Under current state law public bodies may continue holding hybrid and fully remote meetings, without a quorum of the public body physically present, as long as adequate, alternative access is provided. Information about how to join a hybrid or fully remote hearing will be included in the required Open Meeting Law posting.

Present: Betsey Brew Boyd, Jane Donnelly, Paul Foley, Sue Ruskin Friend, Bob Froh, Joan Heilbronner (Vice Chair), Linda Johnson (Chair), Wayne Johnson, Brian Kardon, Jean MacQuiddy, Tom Nicholson (Associate Member), Carol Ott, Prather Palmer, Gerri Scoll (Associate Member), Shirley Small Rougeau (Associate Member), and Joan Ingersoll (Director, ex officio)

Absent: Alice Benson (Associate Member), Vida Goldstein (Associate Member), and Sue Pauker

Guests: Holly Tolley (FCOA President), Barbara Baker (FCOA Board Member), Kit Diver (FCOA Board Member), Danielle Black (UPC Designee), and Alexandra Vacroux

Resident Concerns and Comments: None

Review and Approve Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May 18 Minutes by Carol Ott and seconded by Betsey Brew Boyd.

[The minutes of the meeting on May 18, 2023 were approved unanimously as submitted.](#)

Director's Report (Joan Ingersoll)

A party for departing driver, Richard, will be held Friday 6/16 at 10am. A new driver has been hired. All employees will receive a 2.5% COLA raise. Kristen has been promoted to Asst. Director. CPR training complete for staff. Other topics included monthly COA directors meeting, FCOA reception, and additional rides available for medical appointments in Boston. My Senior Center training is scheduled for training for credit card use and transportation issues. Staff review is upcoming and preparation is underway. Planning a new memory cafe program for the fall. Joan submitted a 15k grant request to Springwell to cover cost of Land's Sake vouchers for eligible older adults. Shirley mentioned past use of gift cards at Land's Sake in addition to the vouchers. Suggestions made about potential solicitations of in-kind donations from local vendors. Joan estimated about 3 people per week utilize the COA pantry.

Treasurer's Report

Prather presented a summary of YTD expenses. Joan showed her current budget working document with all revenue sources and expenses.

Friends of the COA Presentation

Holly discussed fundraising strategies. Funds are given to the COA as block grants. Specific support to pay postage for newsletter and specific needs of certain older adults. Most donors are older adults, and fundraising has declined slightly this spring. Holly discussed the need for new board members. Wayne asked about a major gifts campaign. At this time, the FCOA does not have the capacity to run such a campaign. Kit advocated for "friend raising" before trying a larger event. Other ideas for raising awareness and attracting new donors were discussed.

Mission/Vision/Values Discussion

Full discussion of the draft M/V/V Statement, which includes input from Board members and staff, highlighted the need for clearer broad inclusion language in the statement. Consideration and discussion will continue, and a new version will be presented at the next meeting.

Board Vacancies/Governance Update

The town has posted the online application for board vacancies and hopes to begin appointment process with the Select Board in the coming weeks.

The town is forming a new committee to study governance issues and volunteers are needed.

Strategic Initiative Committee Report (Tom Nicholson)

Joan Ingersoll presented a draft proposal for a 2024-25 plan which sets forth goals for staff and the Board. The subsequent discussion focused on identifying COA priorities.

Committee/Liaison Reports:

Shirley and Jane reviewed Race Amity Day and noted the great support from Joan and Kristen. Those who attended said it was a tremendously moving and successful program.

Betsey thanked all Celebrate Weston volunteers and asked for feedback before upcoming debrief with organizing committee.

Other Business

Linda reminded all to track volunteer hours and send to Kristen.

Paul is going to keep Board apprised of MIT Age Lab work.

Linda reminded all about Richard's farewell party on Friday, June 16 at 10am.

Linda thanked our departing Board members for their many years of service to the COA: Betsey Brew Boyd, Jane Donnelly, and Bob Froh, and also our departing Associate Members: Tom Nicholson and Shirley Small Rougeau.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Carol Ott and seconded by Joan Heilbronner to adjourn the meeting.

[The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47am.

Next Meeting:

July 20, 2023 at 8:30am

*Respectfully submitted by Joan Heilbronner
20 July 2023*