

Council on Aging (COA) Advisory Board
Minutes from Meeting May 11, 2026 at 9:00AM
At Lowell Senior Center

Roll Call/Sign - In: In attendance: Chairman Richard Demers, Co-Chairperson Maxine Farkas, Frank Baskin, Gilda James, Judy Huber, Beverly Gonsalves (Recorder), Andy Hostetler & Molyka Tieng. Excused Erin Gendron. Attending Director Kimberly Gagnon and Guest Ricardo Solis.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

III. Approval of the April Minutes: Maxine made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Judy and they were approved unanimously.

IV. Director's Report: Kim said that the June Heritage is right on track. Aurora does a great job preparing it. It is business as usual. Input for the Heritage will be requested at the first of the month.

V. Chairperson's Report: Richard said that the Open Doors Program for the Senior Center will be held next year.

Richard also asked Kim if there is a problem with the Senior Center staying here but was told that the Walgreen's issue is still in Executive Session.

VI Committee & Liaison Reports

a. Grant updates: Maxine has not applied for anything.

b. Outreach Committee: Frank asked if the owner knows what is going on here?

The guest Richards Solis spoke about the meeting he attended on May 10th.

at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. He is the Church Co-Ordinator. He will be traveling to Utah to attend the church there. He will be bringing important information to our Senior Center when he returns.

c. Healthy Aging Committee: the next meeting will be held on the third Monday in May since the fourth Monday is Memorial Day and the SC will be closed.

Andy spoke about the Mayor from Cork, Ireland's visit to Lowell and the Senior Center. Also, that Lowell and Cork may become sister cities. All who had the opportunity to meet him enjoyed his visit, pool playing and his guitar playing.

Andy also spoke about the presentation of the "Happy to Chat Bench" presentation on Friday May 15.

d. Senior Center Working Group: Maxine said that the walls and classrooms are being painted and will be finished by the 22nd.

Maxine also said that her intern Scarlett will return on Thursdays. the next Art Show Reception will be held on Saturday, June 6.

VII Items for Discussion

a. Old Business

i. BHOAP Behavioral Health Outreach for Aging Population

Frank keeps informed on the BHOAP Program. We received a handout about the FY27 Budget and what the BHOAP Program achieves. The proposal for the legislature about elder behavioral health for an additional \$200,000 for a total of \$6,555,303 was not passed. A senator submitted an amendment #475 which would bring it up to the total submitted. Contact Mass state Senators to support that amendment.

ii. Changes to Mass Health Mass.

VIII Other

IX Adjournment First by Maxine, second by Judy, all others were in favor

Next Meeting Monday June 8, @ 9:00 am