



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Commission on Aging**  
**Thursday, December 1, 2016, ~ 7:00pm**  
**Levy Center, 300 Dodge Ave.**

**Members Present:** Rick Gergerian, Sue Canter, Jane Wickenkamp, Dorothy Strong, Dave Sutor, Jessie Macdonald, Barbara Roberts, Donna Feldman, Alan Factor, Bonnie Lockhart, Marcia Achenbach

**Members Absent:** Beverly Shearer, William Green and Catherine O'Brien,

**Staff Present:** Audrey Thompson, Long-Term Ombudsman and Marchelle Bonner, Senior Services Assistant

**Guests:** Liz Gordon, North Shore Senior Center

**Presiding Member:** Mary Signatur, Chair

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**DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Chair Signatur called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of November 10, 2016**

Corrections to the minutes from November 10th included removing Barbara Roberts from present member to absent member. Motion to approve notes with correction was seconded.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)*

The two part program, "Common Sense About Our Senses," consisting of a presentation about the topic at Beth Emet on Sunday, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> and experiential workshops at the Levy Center on Thursday, Nov 17<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. The most popular presentations were the food preparations and chair/table massages. It was suggested that the event not take place at Beth Emet next year and that it not take place on a Sunday due to the low turnout. Many members noted that while there was a lower turnout than expected, the turnout was still great given the change of venue and day of the week. Members also noted that this gave the Commission an opportunity to reach the faith based community, a community that had not been targeted in the past.

## **RELEVANT COMMITTEE (AGE FRIENDLY)**

1. Wayne Heimbach, Housing Committee Chairperson and former Commission on Aging member will be leaving the Task Force to accept a promotion at work.
2. The Housing Committee reports that there is a more in-depth survey in the works and they are working with the City to develop and distribute the survey. Realtors will meet with developers about how to go about building supportive/low income housing in Evanston.

## **CHAIR/VICE CHAIR REPORT**

1. Chair Signatur thanked LTCO Thompson and Committee for their work on the Senses event.
2. Chair also thanked COA members for the gifts for the grandparents raising grandkids holiday party.
3. Susan Morse has resigned from the Commission on Aging.
4. Please be aware of the events on the monthly calendar and take note of the events that you may be able to attend and represent the COA.
5. Volunteers still needed for the Holiday Breakfast on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Levy Center.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Thompson discussed the following highlights:

1. 311 trainings will begin on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Thompson will be gathering FAQ from the Senior Services Department telephone logs for the 311 trainings.
2. Ms. Thompson has been attending the Police Department roll calls with Carla Frisch, supervisor from Metropolitan Family Services to ensure that officers know what the Ombudsman Program and Adult Protective Services are and how the Police can work together on specific referrals.
3. Levy Center Holiday Breakfast will be catered this year but volunteers are still needed to serve.
4. Handyman program has been streamlined so that there is a per person spending limit. The City of Evanston has spent \$19,000 on 117 requests in the last year. The new procedures for the Program have allowed more seniors to receive services.
5. The Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago (Christmas in May) Home Modification Program is now accepting applications. Ms. Thompson encouraged the Commission to refer seniors who need repairs and modifications to the Program.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Vice Chair Macdonald went to a meeting for The Housing and Homelessness Committee. She discovered that a lot of the funding funneled through this Committee is for the homeless and affordable housing projects and not much was mentioned about older adult living. There is approximately \$1.5 million in the fund.
2. Committee Chair Signatur asked if there were any questions about the housing list provided by Ms. Thompson. Ms. Lockhart stated that she would be interested in seeing training on how and when to apply for senior housing in Evanston. Ms.

Thompson discussed the parameters around senior housing and how long waiting list are for low income housing.

3. Ms. Thompson discussed a proposal that she wrote for bridge housing. This type of housing provides some financial support to seniors who can pay some of the rent with the City subsidizing the rest until the senior can be approved for subsidized housing.
4. Ms. Canter asked if the long term care facilities meet or communicate at all with the other facilities in Evanston. Ms. Thompson replied that they do when necessary but she is not aware of any formal communication between the facilities.
5. Due to the resignation of Susan Morse from the Commission, Ms. Lockhart has agreed to serve on the Work Plan Committee
6. COA members were asked to review the work plan so that they are ready to make changes, vote and approve the plan at the next meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Community meeting ideas were discussed and are listed as follows:
  - a. Meetings can be held in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year.
  - b. King Home, Mather, Library, McGaw, and Aperion Care where suggested locations.
  - c. Speakers with types of presentations were suggested.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. A request was made by the North Shore Senior Center to wrap gifts on December 7<sup>th</sup> for the grandparents raising grandkids holiday party.
2. LTCC meeting will be held **December 9<sup>th</sup>** at 10am at the Civic Center.
3. Grandparent raising grandkids holiday party will take place at the Levy Center on **December 10<sup>th</sup>**. COA members were encouraged to volunteer. Ms. Wickenkamp has volunteered to help with that event.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marchelle Bonner, Senior Services Assistant