



MEETING MINUTES
Commission on Aging
Thursday, February 2, 2017, ~ 7:00pm
Levy Center, 300 Dodge Ave.

Members Present: Rick Gergerian, Sue Canter, Jane Wickenkamp, Dorothy Strong, Dave Sutor, Jessie Macdonald, Donna Feldman, Alan Factor, Marcia Achenbach, William Green, Catherine O'Brien

Members Absent: Beverly Shearer, Bonnie Lockhart, Barbara Roberts

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

Guests: Tom Giller- North Shore Senior Center

Presiding Member: Mary Signatur, Chair

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Giller was very thankful for the support from the Commission with the Holiday party for the Grandparents and their children. Mr. Giller now serves on the Levy Center board and announced that there are currently two openings on the board.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of December 1, 2016

There were no corrections to the minutes from December. Motion to approve minutes was seconded.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)

LTCC did not meet in December of January but will resume meetings on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 9am

RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORT (AGE FRIENDLY)

1. Age Friendly has a new staff member, Johanna Leonard, who took the place of Catherine Hurley. Ms. Strong and Ms. Canter met with Ms. Leonard to bring her up to speed on next steps for Age Friendly including social inclusion.
2. Age Friendly is looking to replace a few people who were chairs of specific committees.

3. The Housing Committee last met on January 24th. The Committee is looking for a chair person. The Committee will be meeting with an attorney who will talk about assisted/supportive living facility set up. The Committee hopes to discuss affordable supported living facility options for Evanston. The City of Evanston is set to do a large housing survey; the Housing Committee will assist in the development of the survey. The Housing Committee looks forward to working more closely with the Housing and Homelessness Committee.

CHAIR/VICE CHAIR REPORT

1. Chair Signatur gave a summary of the Legislative Breakfast. Chair Signatur mentioned the budget impasse and how it is affecting social services. During the breakfast, there were stories shared about the impact of the budget cuts. Vice Chair Macdonald stated the meeting was very specific to seniors and AgeOptions put together a packet about how seniors would be impacted by the budget cuts and the lack of Illinois budget. Vice Chair Macdonald urged COA members to call their representative with "human stories" about issues older adults are facing due to budget cuts.
2. There are still spots available for the Intergenerational Art Project for seniors (flyer was passed out to COA members).
3. Chair and Vice Chair reminded COA members to take a look at the events on the monthly calendar and take note of the events that they may be able to attend and represent the COA.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Thompson discussed the following highlights:

1. All applications for Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago and Northwestern University Rehab Program have been completed and submitted. All applications must be submitted to Rebuilding Together by February 3, 2017.
2. The Highlands at King Home will close on September 30th 2017.
3. The Aging Well Conference will be held on May 5, 2017 at the Levy Center from 8:30AM to noon. The film night will be held at the Evanston Public Library on Wednesday, May 3rd at 7:00 PM. If you would like to nominate a person for the Aging Well Award, please see LTCO Thompson for nomination forms.
4. AARP tax volunteers will assist with simple tax returns at the Levy Center beginning February 10th (Tuesdays 9 AM-noon and 1-4 PM; Fridays 9 AM-noon and 1-4 PM)
5. Interviews for the full time Ombudsman assistant will be held on Friday, February 3, 2017.
6. The kickoff date for the Northshore Memory Café will be March 3, 2017 from 1-3 PM in the Levy Center Library.
7. Please be reminded that the City of Evanston will connect seniors and people with disabilities with volunteers who are willing to assist with snow shoveling.
8. Working with CJE to see if they will be willing to accept taxi coupons from individuals who need transportation that supports wheelchairs, walkers and other durable medical equipment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Work plan approval.
 - a. There were some minor changes to the wording of the plan.
 - b. The number of COA meetings held in the community was changed for the year.

There was a motion to accept the Work Plan as written; that motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

The following highlights were made:

1. February 4th – Meet the Mayoral Candidates
2. February 12th 3-5 PM- State of our Communities discussion
3. How to be an active COA member
 - a. Volunteer
 - b. Go to community meetings and report back with issues relevant to seniors
 - c. Join a committee
 - d. Participate in intergenerational events
 - e. Support and attend COA educational events in the community
 - f. Become a volunteer Ombudsman
4. Planning for COA community meetings and programs
 - a. LTCO will attempt to schedule the location of the next COA meeting at Aperion Care of Evanston
 - b. The community meeting will be postponed by one month, if no presentation ideas can be finalized by March by Chair, Vice Chair and LTCO.

COMMUNICATIONS

Jane Wickenkamp attended a 5th Ward meeting and there was a lot of concern about affordable housing, not just for seniors, but for everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marchelle Bonner, Senior Services Assistant
Parks, Recreation and Community Service