



MEETING MINUTES

Commission on Aging

Thursday, March 2, 2017 at ~7:00pm

Aperion Care of Evanston, 1300 Oak Avenue

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

Members Absent: William Green, Beverly Shearer, Bonnie Lockhart, Barbara Roberts, Sue Canter

Staff Present: Audrey Thompson, Regional Ombudsman/Program Manager; Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant

Guests: Tom Giller – North Shore Senior Center, Bluma Stoller

Presiding Member: Mary Signatur, Chair

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Chair Signatur called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Callie Sadler was introduced as the new Ombudsman Assistant for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Ms. Sadler joins the Program from a skilled nursing facility in Chicago, where she served as Assistant Director of Social Services for over two years. She is excited to learn more about the services provided to older adults in Evanston, and grateful for the warm welcome she has received thus far!

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of February 2, 2017

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

PRESENTATION

Ms. Megan Tejchma, Social Services Director at Aperion Care of Evanston, presented information on the benefits of pet therapy with her dog, Kehena. A handout entitled, "Four-Legged Friends: The Importance of Pets to Older Adults" was provided to attendees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)

Ms. Macdonald reviewed the topics discussed during the LTCC's most recent meeting on February 2, 2017.

1. The Committee has plans to convene at The Merion (1611 Chicago Ave.) on Wednesday, March 8th at 9:00am. All members are invited to attend; a tour of the building is anticipated to begin at 9:45am.
2. Members were encouraged to begin generating ideas for the upcoming Fall Presentation.

RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS (AGE FRIENDLY EVANSTON)

1. Mr. Factor explained his involvement in the Housing Committee through Age Friendly, and the positive impact affordable housing services would have on members of all ages in the community. The Committee is working to develop housing options that would provide assisted living and independent living opportunities for older adults of moderate income. The Committee has already met with a contractor and will be working with the City to coordinate ideas and funding.

CHAIR REPORT

1. Chair Signatur expressed a need for new Commission members in the future. Current members were encouraged to invite friends or acquaintances who share an interest in the Commission's aims and mission.

STAFF REPORT

LTC Ombudsman, Audrey Thompson, discussed the following highlights:

1. The Senior Gala will be held on April 2nd from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Merion, 1611 Chicago Ave.
2. On Friday, March 3rd, the Memory Café grand opening will be held at the Levy Center Library from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. The group is for individuals who are affected by memory loss (such as those with Alzheimer's or dementia) and friends, families, and loved ones. Twenty attendees are confirmed; a new congregation space may be required depending on attendance numbers. Upcoming sessions are planned for the first Friday of each month.
3. The Aging Well Conference will be held on May 5th at the Levy Center from 8:30am until noon, with keynote speaker Mark Miller.
4. The Aging Well Film Night will be held on Wednesday, May 3rd, at 7:00pm in the Evanston Public Library.
5. Twenty-two applications for the Rebuilding Together program have been submitted; the last Saturday in April (the 29th) has been slated as the day of action. Five houses have been identified as needing major exterior work, which will be completed through the Rebuilding Together and Northwestern partnership.
6. Ms. Thompson provided information on hoarding (including the recent completion of a guide as part of the Hoarding Taskforce), as well as the process by which

homes can be sold when their owners have unpaid taxes. Mrs. Thompson is working closely with the City of Evanston's tax collector office in order to determine which Evanston residents are at risk of having their homes sold due to unpaid taxes, which of these residents may already be involved in services through the Ombudsman's office, and which residents might benefit from additional intervention in order to maintain their homes. A handout was provided describing the new deadline for delinquent tax payments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Chair Signatur attended the outgoing Mayor's final Town Hall meeting at the Levy Center. The event was well-attended, and attendees learned more about sanctuary cities and what this term does and does not entail. There was general discussion regarding the mayoral election and run-off.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Updates to the March calendar were discussed by Alan Factor with encouragement for members to attend meetings of interest. Jessie Macdonald indicated that she was interested in attending an upcoming meeting for the 7th and 5th Wards. Quotes pertaining to aging are now included on the calendars as well.
2. Ms. Thompson informed members of her upcoming Money Smarts presentation at The Mather on Friday, March 3rd at 10:30am. The presentation aims to educate older adults about financial exploitation.
3. Dementia Friendly America was discussed.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communications this month

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant