



MEETING MINUTES
Commission on Aging
Thursday, April 6 2017 ~ 7:00pm
Levy Center, 300 Dodge Avenue

Members Present: Rick Gergerian, Jane Wickenkamp, Dorothy Strong, Dave Sutor, Alan Factor, Marcia Achenbach, Sue Canter, William Green, Bonnie Lockhart

Members Absent: Jessie Macdonald, Donna Feldman, Beverly Shearer, Barbara Roberts, Cate O'Brien

Staff Present: Audrey Thompson, Regional Ombudsman/Program Manager

Guests: Tom Giller – North Shore Senior Center, Jane Simmons, Community Member

Presiding Member: Mary Signatur, Chair

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Chair Signatur called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of February 2, 2017

Minutes were approved with one correction regarding the title of the individual who met with the Housing Committee of the Age Friendly Evanston Task Force. That individual was an attorney and not a contractor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)

In Ms. Macdonald's absence, Chair Signatur gave a report of topics discussed during the LTCC's most recent meeting on March 8, 2017.

1. The last LTCC meeting was held at the Merion with Margaret Gergen, a wonderful host, who took the Committee on a tour. Those who were present for the LTCC meeting commented that the Merion has made many changes.
2. The Fall Presentation will be conducted on Thursday, September 28th from 1 – 3 p.m. at the Levy Center
3. There were several ideas discussed but one in particular stood out to the Committee entitled "Boost Your Brain and Memory." This is a six weeks class, recently offered at the Mather and developed by COA member, Cate O'Brien. If this presentation is selected, Lisa McCormick, wellness nurse at the Mather will be the presenter on September 28th, with other selected presenters for the six

weeks follow up sessions. More information will be discussed at the next LTCC meeting.

4. Other ideas for the September 28th presentation were discussed as well. Tools for Aging Well would provide workshops on humor, nutrition friendship, and stress management. Finally, a presentation entitled “Loss and Found” would provide a panel to explore the losses and gains of aging.

RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORS (AGE FRIENDLY EVANSTON)

1. Mr. Factor discussed his attendance at the March 7th joint meeting of the 1st and 4th wards. The development of 831 Emerson was discussed with regards to affordability. Mr. Factor stated that this housing development would make a deposit of 2.4 million dollars into the Affordable housing fund. There is currently 1.8 million dollars in the Affordable Housing Fund per City Manager, Bobkiewicz.
2. Mr. Factor also attended the March 9th brainstorming session with a focus on housing and what could be done to develop intergenerational housing. He discussed an idea to sponsor an architectural competition to design and develop this intergeneration housing idea.
3. Ms. Strong discussed next steps to develop procedures to increase the number of Evanston businesses to give senior discounts in association with the Evanston Benefit Card. She is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Sue Cherco, Audrey Thompson and JoAnn Cromer. Mr. Green stated that it should be a goal of the City of Evanston to request that new businesses offer discounts to seniors in an effort to be Age Friendly. A discussion ensued about a combination of old and new business offering discounts but targeting new businesses initially would be an even better time to make this request.
4. Ms. Canter discussed the continued work of the Building and Outdoor Spaces Committee and looking at businesses and their accessibility for older adults and individuals who have disabilities. They are in the process of conducting research to establish next steps.

CHAIR REPORT

1. Chair Signatur discussed last month’s meeting at Aperion Care of Evanston. She stated that community meetings allow members to get a feel for long term care facilities by actually visiting and having in-person meetings. Ms. Signatur also thanked Mr. Gergerian for the idea to have a presentation on Pet Therapy at the meeting.
2. Ms. Signatur discussed her attendance at a meeting to discuss a Dementia Awareness Program for Evanston, facilitated by Carolyn Lickerman. During this meeting they reviewed statistics and prevalence of Dementia and why Ms. Lickerman is so passionate about initiating this Program in Evanston. The committee felt strongly about the importance of the dementia awareness program being affiliated with Age Friendly Evanston. Ms. O'Brien was able to bring the idea to a subsequent Age Friendly Task Force meeting, and the issue remains on the table.

STAFF REPORT

LTC Ombudsman, Audrey Thompson, discussed the following highlights:

1. The success of the Senior Gala at the Merion and her excitement that residents of the four senior buildings were in attendance and were provided transportation to attend.
2. The success of the Memory Café which appears to be very close to its capacity was also discussed.
3. The Aging Well Conference was highlighted with the need to register. A request was also made for COA members to volunteer to assist with food the day of the event. There was also a reminder for members to attend the Aging Well Film Night to be held on Wednesday, May 3rd, at 7:00pm in the Evanston Public Library.
4. Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago will complete its Rebuilding Day on April 29th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business this month.

NEW BUSINESS

Highlights to the April Calendar were discussed with an emphasis on the first week of May, which was also included on the April calendar.

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 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Thompson, Regional Ombudsman/Program Supervisor