



MEETING MINUTES

Commission on Aging

Thursday, July 6, 2017 at ~2:00pm

Over the Rainbow – Hill Arboretum Apartments, 2040 Brown Ave.

Members Present: Rick Gergerian, Jane Wickenkamp, Alan Factor, Marcia Achenbach, Sue Canter, Louise Love, Mike Iverson, Catherine O'Brien, Dave Sutor, Dorothy Strong

Members Absent: Beverly Shearer, Jessie Macdonald, Donna Feldman, Bonnie Lockhart, William Green, Barbara Roberts

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

Guests: Kathy Honeywell – North Shore Senior Center; Patrick Hughes, Jr. – Inclusion Solutions

Presiding Member: Mary Signatur, Chair

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Chair Signatur called the meeting to order at 2:05pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of June 1, 2017

There were no corrections to the minutes from June. The motion to approve minutes was seconded.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Patrick Hughes, Jr., presented information about his company, Inclusion Solutions, which seeks to help businesses meet ADA requirements and better serve customers with disabilities. His company manufactures products that help facilitate patronage of businesses by individuals with disabilities by improving accessibility; Mr. Hughes provided examples of past ventures and described ongoing need for improvement both in Evanston and on a larger scale.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)

Chair Signatur reviewed the topics discussed during the LTCC's most recent meeting

on June 14, 2017, as Ms. Macdonald was unable to attend today's Commission meeting.

1. The committee continues to plan the upcoming Fall Presentation, which will be held on Thursday, September 28th at 1pm, with six follow-up sessions each Thursday thereafter. Details are evolving, and not all presenters have been selected; however, Ms. Canter is developing an evaluation form based on prior Presentations, a save-the-date has been drafted, and several sponsors have been secured.
2. The next LTCC site visit will be on Thursday, July 27th at 4pm, at Symphony of Evanston (820 Foster Street).

RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS (AGE FRIENDLY EVANSTON)

1. Mr. Factor reported that there were few updates from the Housing Taskforce; however, a meeting has been arranged with Janice Maloney to discuss the next step in performing a feasibility study for future affordable housing options. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11th at 3:30pm; attendees were invited to participate if interested and available.
2. Ms. Canter discussed recent efforts by Building and Outdoor Spaces, subcommittee of Age Friendly Evanston, which completed site visits and reviews of businesses in Evanston to determine barriers to accessibility. Data will be turned in to the City to determine the next steps in increasing accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

CHAIR REPORT

1. Chair Signatur indicated that the Dementia Awareness Committee will meet on Friday, July 7th at 11am at The Mather (425 Davis), to discuss how to make Evanston more supportive for individuals with dementia as well as their caregivers. The Committee has been incorporated into the Age Friendly Initiative since the last COA meeting.
2. This month's LTCC meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 19th at 9:30am; the next COA meeting will be on September 7th.

STAFF REPORT

LTC Ombudsman, Audrey Thompson, discussed the following highlights:

1. The Levy Center will host this month's Memory Café on Friday, July 7th from 1pm to 3pm, focusing on brain-healthy foods. Attendees of today's meeting were treated to a copy of the recipe cards for brain-boosting snacks that Memory Café participants will also receive.
2. The TransAssist 4 Evanston (T4E) program will be extended through the end of October 2017. Attendees were encouraged to continue using the transportation services and share their experiences with others to show that there is a need for both the shuttle routes and accessible rides in general.
 - a. Feedback from riders has been positive! Although individuals have been slow to schedule an initial ride, once they use the service, they typically continue using it.

- b. Another benefit of the T4E program was highlighted, in that the T4E rides are more flexible than scheduling a PACE car for transportation to short errands. PACE requires that the rider spend two hours *off* the vehicle before a pick-up, so individuals who merely wish to go to the bank or to the store to pick up a few items have enjoyed the fact that the T4E vehicle waits for them to complete their task before bringing them home right away, rather than having to find something else to occupy their time for two hours while waiting for PACE to return.
3. The Mather recently completed their annual survey through the Illinois Department of Public Health, and no deficiencies (“tags”) were noted.
4. Staff members from two Evanston nursing facilities, Albany Care and Greenwood Care, are slated to go on strike starting tomorrow, July 7th. Although a strike on a larger scale was narrowly averted in May, staff from SIR Management facilities (including CNAs, housekeeping, and dietary staff) has gone back to the negotiating table. Ombudsmen will be available on Friday and over the weekend to monitor certain aspects of resident care such as meals to ensure all needs are being met until a settlement is reached.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business this month.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Members were encouraged to enjoy the updated calendar provided to attendees, and to note the new quote included therein.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Resident attendees inquired about the recently-passed state budget, and whether there were any provisions or changes that would affect attendees or populations of particular interest, such as older adults or those with disabilities. Because the approved budget is so new, attendees were not familiar with the legislation enough to discuss potential pros or cons at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 3:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant