



MEETING MINUTES

Commission on Aging
Thursday, March 1, 2018 at ~7pm
Levy Center, 300 Dodge Avenue

Members Present: Alan Factor, Jessie Macdonald, Marcia Achenbach, Sue Canter, William Green, Jane Wickenkamp, Tom Giller, Dave Sutor, Mike Iverson, and Louise Love

Members Absent: Donna Feldman, Dorothy Strong, Catherine O'Brien, Rick Gergerian, and Bonnie Lockhart

Staff Present: Audrey Thompson, Regional Ombudsman/Program Manager

Guest: None

Presiding Member: Mary Signatur, Chair

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Chair Signatur called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of February 1, 2018

The COA minutes from February 1, 2018 were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)

COA Chair Signatur commented that the following had been discussed at the Long-Term Care Committee meeting held on February 14th, 2018:

- 1) An overall topic for the fall presentation has been confirmed. The format of the presentation will include a panel discussion by experts on a variety of topics related to end-of-life issues. LTCC Chair Love disseminated suggested topics for fall presentation.
- 2) Site visit to the Grove of Evanston was conducted on February 22, 2018. Those who had been present at previous site visits to the Grove commented on some slight improvements. However, many committee members felt a huge difference in what they saw on the first and second floors as opposed to the third, long-term care floor. Members commented that the third floor had a noticeable odor. Those members who were in attendance at previous site visits felt there had been no improvement in smell from the last site visit some time ago. Members also observed that there seemed to be no organization to the third floor and that the common area where meals and activities occur had no order as chairs were in

disarray. Committee members were in agreement that the information portrayed in the brochure painted a very different picture of what was viewed during the site visit.

- 3) Chair Signatur stated that the physical therapy area looked really nice. She added the fact that physical therapy was offered seven days a week was a plus. Ms. Signatur also commented that former Grove Director of Nursing and current COA member, Bonnie Lockhart, stated that in the past staffing was fairly consistent.
- 4) There was much discussion by COA regarding the role of the COA/LTCC in conducting site visits. Chair Signatur commented that site visits are a time for members to ask questions, show interest in the facility, and gain information on care options of each long-term care community. Ms. Thompson discussed the role of the Ombudsman in addressing any concerns of the Committee or any person, for that matter. She also discussed Ombudsman Sadler's visits after the site visit and commented that the odor had not been an issue during previous Ombudsman visits since the February 22nd site visit.

RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Age-Friendly Evanston (AFE) Task Force

1. Ms. Canter discussed a meeting with Mayor Hagerty regarding a possible two-year extension for Age-Friendly so the Task Force can finish projects that are currently in progress. There was also discussion on how to keep the AFE theme going in the community so that community members begin to see all things through an age-friendly lens.
2. Ms. Canter also discussed the AFE Business initiative and how people in both the business community and community at large are starting to get excited about the AFE initiative. She discussed an email from Linda Larkin, Chair of the Chamber of Commerce, who stated that Marve Eisenstein, new Chair of Lighthouse rotary, wants to know more about AFE and affordable housing. Ms. Canter commented on the irony that now that the initiative is ending, everyone is excited about the AFE projects; this is exciting, as the primary focus of AFE was to get folks excited and feel positive about becoming an Age-Friendly community. She expressed the need for manpower moving forward to make projects a reality. One specifically-identified project is the labeling of trees for the arboretum, as trees were labeled in the past but not currently. AFE is hoping that the kids from the Ecology Camp might take tree labeling on as a project

Housing Committee

1. Mr. Factor reported that the Housing Committee meeting was postponed and was rescheduled for Tuesday, March 6th. The Committee is recruiting people to work on a housing plan for the City, to support/advocate for housing development in Wilmette, and support the Wilmette group's activity. Ms. Wickenkamp commented that Joining Forces for Affordable Housing is very big on this project.

Dementia-Friendly Committee

1. Mr. Factor reported that he is co-chairing this Committee with Carolyn Lickerman. He stated that the first set of focus groups at the Mather with Dr. Angela Roberts had been completed. Dr. Roberts is an Assistant Professor for the Roxelyn and

Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. School of Communication at Northwestern University. Mr. Factor also stated that the Mather has a caregiver support group as they have a Memory Care Unit with 12-14 beds. As for the focus group, Mr. Factor mentioned that Dr. Roberts stated that the participants in the focus group (all men with the exception of one woman) did not express much concern about having dementia as they still participate in meetings and activities. All participants were currently living in their apartments. Mr. Factor was surprised, however, that most caregivers did not know about Adult Day Service (ADS). Some had family members who went to CJE ADS and House of Welcome (only two) but all would like something closer in Evanston.

CHAIR REPORT

1. Chair Signatur presented certificates of appreciation to Sue Canter and Jane Wickenkamp whose terms have expired. Ms. Canter and Ms. Wickenkamp expressed their appreciation to the COA for the knowledge gained during their tenure. COA members also expressed their appreciation for the leadership that both ladies have provided for the COA.
2. Mr. Sutor reopened the discussion of the role of the COA in conducting site visits to long-term care communities. He stated that there had never been any feedback provided back to facility administration regarding reactions after a site visit. Ms. Love stated that the LTCC is only visiting the facility for a short time and it would be difficult to ascertain what level of care is being provided overall during this short period. Mr. Sutor commented that it was important to give feedback for future visits. Mr. Factor asked if it was appropriate to copy a particular person on the feedback to the facility, as the COA acts as an advisor to City government. Ms. Macdonald agreed that providing feedback and copying the Alderman in which the facility is located, would be a great idea.

Mr. Iverson stated that the COA should be very careful to clarify its role before issuing formal letters, which could place the COA in a position of ally or overseer. He stated that the COA should be very gentle with feedback, as facility staff are in the trenches and the kind of feedback provided could shape the relationship between COA and facilities moving forward. Mr. Giller stated that the COA should be careful when providing formal reports, as they could appear to provide a commendation/endorsement or censure of a facility. Mr. Green stated that no matter what is said, whether positive or negative, something in writing could be more beneficial to the management, as it could be used to gain resources to resolve a particular issue. It was moved (Mr. Sutor) and seconded (Mr. Green) that the concerns of the COA discussed in the meeting would be sent to the LTCC for further discussion and the LTCC would make recommendations back to the COA regarding next steps to take after facility site visits. A vote was taken with no opposition.

VICE CHAIR REPORT

No Vice Chair Report this month.

STAFF REPORT

Due to time constraints, LTC Ombudsman Mrs. Audrey Thompson gave an abbreviated report. She discussed the following:

- 1) Rebuilding Together Day which usually begins and ends on the last Saturday in April will have an early start date this year. The first project will be completed with the assistance of Lighthouse Rotary and will begin Friday, March 2nd.
- 2) LTCO will discuss the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program during New Business on the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Ms. Canter discussed the success of the Pizzamania fundraiser that she attended for Shore Homes East, a facility for individuals with developmental disabilities.
2. Mr. Iverson attended the Rebuilding Together kickoff celebration this month and was excited to hear of upcoming projects for this year. He is also excited about speaking with Executive Director, Sharon Riley, about his role moving forward to assist with Evanston projects.
3. Ms. Signatur attended the Vision Keepers event on February 18th. This is an annual fundraiser sponsored by Interfaith Action of Evanston. This event honors volunteers from various communities and those who provide services to those in need.
4. Mr. Factor discussed the CJE Linkages conference which is a half-day conference with over 100 people with disabilities, professionals and family members registered. He commented that The Arc in Washington, DC (<https://www.thearc.org/>) educates individuals on how they can advocate for their needs by developing personal stories to give to legislators. During this conference, participants were able to create and practice their personal stories.
5. Ms. Love discussed a visit by a social worker in Evanston Hospital who gave her incomplete and incorrect resources for the City of Evanston. Ms. Love stated that it is important to reach out to this social worker in an effort to ensure she has the most recent information.

NEW BUSINESS

1. New transportation program was discussed in short with thanks to Ms. Sadler for her complete explanation in the last month's minutes.
2. The June COA meeting was discussed with a change in time, as this meeting will be a community meeting. A film entitled Monster in the Mind will be viewed followed by a discussion moderated by Dan Kuhn. As this is a community meeting, Ms. Thompson proposed altering the date and time of the June meeting (the community room at the Library is not available on the first Thursday in June). In addition, she commented that showing a film at seven o'clock at night and providing transportation could be difficult. Ms. Thompson recommended an earlier start time that would ensure the entire event was over by 6 pm. An abbreviated COA meeting would follow the film feature. It was moved (Ms. Macdonald) and seconded (Ms. Love) that the COA-sponsored event in June begin at an earlier time to accommodate the film with an abbreviated COA meeting to follow. A vote was taken with none in opposition.
3. There was a short discussion regarding the change in time of future COA meeting. Ms. Signatur asked if it was appealing to move meetings to an earlier

time to accommodate members who are currently working and those who would like to get home at an earlier time. The discussion was tabled to the next COA meeting.

4. The Neighbors Helping Neighbors program was also tabled for discussion until the next COA meeting.
5. Ms. Signatur reviewed March calendar with a confirmation that the Age-Friendly Evanston Task Force, which has not been meeting monthly, will meet on March 27th at 2:00 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Ms. Signatur asked members to provide contact information if they are interested in receiving newsletter for New Community Vision (Shared Housing) previously discussed in the February COA meeting by Terry Edlin.
2. Aging Well Conference Committee (AWCC) also requested that COA members serve again at the 20th Annual Aging Well Conference. Last year, the COA served food and provided hospitality during the Conference. AWCC is requesting that the COA serve in this same capacity at this year's conference. It was moved (Ms. Macdonald) and seconded (Mr. Green) that COA members assist by serving food and greeting participants at this year's AWC. A vote was taken with no opposition.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Thompson, Regional Ombudsman, Program Manager