



MEETING MINUTES
Commission on Aging
Thursday, May 3, 2018 at ~7pm
Levy Center, 300 Dodge Avenue

Members Present:, Dave Sutor, Mike Iverson, Dorothy Strong, Louise Love, Rick Gergerian, and Jessie Macdonald

Members Absent: Alan Factor, Marcia Achenbach, Tom Giller, Donna Feldman, Catherine O'Brien, Bonnie Lockhart, and William Green

Staff Present: Audrey Thompson, Regional Ombudsman/Program Manager

Guest: Doreen Price

Presiding Member: Mary Signatur, Chair

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Chair Signatur called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of April 5, 2018

The COA minutes from April 5, 2018 were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)

LTCC Chair Love commented that the following had been discussed at the Long-Term Care Committee meeting held on April 11th, 2018:

- 1) The LTCC continued discussion of potential avenues for addressing concerns raised during facility site visits. It was ultimately decided that LTCC members will reconvene to discuss concerns and next steps for any intervention to be considered, including a report of those concerns to Ombudsman Program. It is possible, however, that reconvening could take place at a different place and time and not necessarily at the facility directly after the site visit.
- 2) Discussion continued regarding the 2018 fall presentation.
 - a. It was decided that three speakers to present on three topics would be too much to cover in one setting. Committee is working to narrow down the subject, confirm a location as well speaker(s) for the presentation.
 - b. The Merion was discussed as a possible location for the event.
- 3) Regional Ombudsman (RO) will schedule a facility site visit for late May at Shore Homes East.

RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Age-Friendly Evanston (AFE) Task Force

1. AFE Task Force sent letter to Mayor Hagerty to extend five year Commission of Task Force in an effort to complete some of the projects currently in process.
2. Chair Signatur discussed the need for additional members on the Task Force to move the mission/projects forward during this extended time frame.
3. Chair Signatur encouraged COA members to participate in the Age Friendly Business Initiative discussed during a prior meeting by RO Thompson and Sue Canter.

Housing Committee

1. Ms. Macdonald discussed previous meeting of the City's Affordable Housing Initiative. She noted that several items were sent back to the Committee. It was suggested that Sarah Flax, Housing and Grants Administrator in the Community Development Department for the City of Evanston, come up with a plan to follow regarding how to move the initiative forward.
2. Ms. Price stated that there appeared to be some resistance as to how to move forward given the fact that there are so many options. Ms. Macdonald stated that she got a sense that it is difficult to decide how to provide and prioritize affordable housing options for all because there are so many different groups that have so many different needs.
3. Ms. Price discussed an article regarding an approach that the City could take to build affordable housing on some of the City's vacant lots.
4. The next meeting is scheduled for May 13th at the Civic Center.

Dementia-Friendly Committee

1. Chair Signatur discussed upcoming focus groups to be held at Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center and the Levy Center.
2. Ms. Signatur also discussed the request by the Committee that she reach out to St. Nicks Church in an effort to include more individuals who are Spanish speaking. She noted that culturally, many of the issues noted regarding caregiving, is not a problem in this community as family members who have dementia are incorporated into the family and the entire family unit steps in to take care of their older adult relatives, including those who have dementia.

CHAIR REPORT

1. Chair Signatur thanked Ms. Macdonald for her creative and positive presence during her tenure with the COA. Ms. Macdonald stated that her time on the COA had been enjoyable and educational and she would miss being a part of the COA.
2. Chair Signatur also reminded COA members to submit their financial disclosure and affiliation forms by the due date.
3. It was also reported that Ms. Feldman had submitted a verbal resignation to the COA. Mr. Sutor asked about the status of membership applications as there had been several members whose terms had been completed which could mean a

shortage of members. Ms. Thompson reported that she'd contacted the Mayor's office in hopes to gain additional members in the coming months.

VICE CHAIR REPORT

No Vice Chair Report this month.

STAFF REPORT

Regional Ombudsman Thompson discussed the following:

- 1) RO reminded members of the Aging Well Conference to be held on tomorrow, Friday, May 4th and asked that members volunteering for the event, arrive no later than 7:30am to be ready to serve when attendees arrive.
- 2) The updated transportation program received final approval at the Administration and Public Works/City Council meeting on Monday, April 9th. However, the transportation program is one of several programs that could be eliminated with the City's priority based budgeting process to be completed in the coming months.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Members discussed the Volunteer Appreciation event and stated that those who attended had a great time.
2. COA members who attended the Film Night commented that while the film, Edith + Eddie, ended on a sad note, the film shed light on the importance of advance directives and how important it is to get affairs in order before a person starts to lose capacity.
3. Ms. Love noted that the Beauty of Aging film should have included a single person as all of the individuals in the film were married. She commented that aging alone is a problem that older adults face and should have been highlighted.
4. There was a short discussion about changing the time of the COA meetings from 7pm to earlier in the evening. Chair Signatur recommended that because the COA will have new members in the coming months, this item should be placed on hold so that new members can weigh in on a different time.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business discussed.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communications.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Thompson, Regional Ombudsman, Program Manager