



## **MEETING MINUTES**

Commission on Aging

Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at ~6pm

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue

**Members Present:** Alan Factor, Tom Giller, Dave Sutor, Catherine O'Brien, William Green, Dorothy Strong, Bonnie Lockhart, and Louise Love

**Members Absent:** Donna Feldman, Rick Gergerian, Marcia Achenbach

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

**Guest:** Doreen Price; Walter Thompson

**Presiding Member:** Mary Signatur, Chair

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### **DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Chair Signatur called the meeting to order at 6:07pm. Attendees agreed that today's meeting would be abbreviated due to the event immediately preceding it.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of May 3, 2018**

The COA minutes from May 3, 2018 were approved with no changes. In the future, Commission members agreed to review the Minutes when they are emailed prior to the meeting and bring suggestions for amendments; this will hopefully reduce the amount of paper used.

### **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 May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018:

1. The LTCC plans to ask Dr. Martha Twaddle to serve as sole presenter for the Fall Presentation; however, Dr. Twaddle is currently on vacation and expressed her intention to respond to Chair Love upon her return to the office.
2. LTCC members visited Shore Homes East as the second site visit of the year. Overall, attendees were "very impressed" with the care residents received.

### **RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Age-Friendly Evanston (AFE) Task Force*

1. Task Force Members are awaiting Mayoral approval to extend the Age-Friendly initiative for two additional years due to the progress made thus far and the projects that are still in the works.

#### *Dementia-Friendly Committee*

1. Ms. Lockhart noted that the Committee met last month, completing and voting to adopt the Committee's mission statements.
2. Mr. Factor reported that a focus group was held at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, but given the small number of participants, it is possible that the Committee will want to re-do the group altogether in an attempt to involve a greater number of individuals.
3. Another focus group held after the monthly Memory Café at the Levy Center on June 1<sup>st</sup> reportedly went "very well," with a strong turnout for both caretakers and individuals with dementia/memory loss.
4. The American Society on Aging (ASA) Roundtable took place on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the results of the Committee's findings from the focus group at The Mather were discussed by Kate Bobbitt.
5. SASI, Age-Friendly Evanston, and the Commission on Aging have each been asked to provide a letter of support for Dementia-Friendly Evanston to be accepted as a member of the Dementia-Friendly America network. A copy of this letter was circulated among attendees to garner feedback.
  - a. Approval of the letter was moved and seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

#### **CHAIR REPORT**

1. Chair Signatur mentioned that she, Vice Chair Factor, and Ms. Audrey Thompson were asked to meet with Mayor Hagerty to review applications for potential appointments to fill open seats on the Commission; it is expected that the Commission will have new members by September 2018.
2. Attendees were encouraged to maintain consistent attendance for Commission meetings to ensure a quorum and bolster continuity.

#### **VICE CHAIR REPORT**

1. Vice Chair Factor mentioned that the Affordable Housing Committee met on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and discussed the following:
  - a. The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) plans to build 80 additional units as well as additional parking spots at Perlman Apartments, one of the four subsidized senior housing buildings in the City.
  - b. Sawgrass Consulting estimated that they could complete the Committee's feasibility study for \$7,500; it would address needs for senior housing, assisted/independent living, and affordable housing options. The City is evidently doing its own study, but it is not specific to needs of older adults.
    - i. There was general discussion about what constitutes "affordable" housing as well as how the proposed fee for Sawgrass might be paid.
    - ii. Ms. Thompson informed attendees that *subsidized* housing units like those offered by HUD and HACC were typically a better deal

for residents because costs were based on the *renter's* income, not the area median income.

### **STAFF REPORT**

LTC Ombudsman Ms. Thompson discussed the following:

1. Level I Ombudsman training is taking place over the next two weeks; the Ombudsman program is excited to welcome two new Volunteer Ombudsmen into the fold.
2. Additional information for the Staff Report will be covered in the next section.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Ms. Thompson has completed multiple focus and educational groups designed to address the City's new subsidized transportation program.
  - a. Mr. Giller also participated in several of the educational presentations to apprise participants of the priority-based budgeting survey, and to explain which of the programs up for reduction or elimination have a direct impact on older adults.
  - b. Two of the subsidized senior housing buildings received visits earlier this week to help program users transition to the new program of their choosing.
  - c. Ombudsman staff will host two additional sign-up events at the two remaining subsidized housing buildings in Evanston, as well as an event at Fleetwood-Jourdain and two at the Levy Center in the next couple of weeks; those who cannot make it to those sign-up sessions are welcome to come to the Levy Center Monday through Friday, 9am to 4:30pm to complete their applications and choose their programs, starting Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>.
2. The City continues to encourage residents to complete the Priority-Based Budgeting surveys available online and in hard copy at various community centers. There are five programs specifically that would impact older adults should they be eliminated: the Mental Health board, tax assessment advocacy, congregate meal program, the Levy Bus, and the subsidized taxicab program.
3. Ms. Thompson continues to work to develop a Neighbors Helping Neighbors program in conjunction with several other organizations.
  - a. This type of program would ease the burden often placed on the City to provide a wide array of resources to its residents; the program would seek to foster relationships between individuals in need of assistance with a variety of tasks with volunteers who can provide that support.
4. The Age-Friendly Business taskforce met with staff at the Great Lakes ADA Center in Chicago to discuss plans to encourage Evanston businesses to become more age-friendly. ADA staff provided valuable feedback regarding the current plan as well as what actions businesses are responsible for taking under the Americans with Disabilities Act even if they were "grandfathered" in.
  - a. Efforts to encourage businesses to participate will initially depend on incentives and appeals to "do the right thing" with regard to making their businesses more accessible to older adults; code enforcement will be utilized only as a last resort.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Attendees reviewed the film “Monster in the Mind,” which was screened immediately prior to the Commission meeting. A discussion moderated by Mr. Dan Kuhn followed the film.
  - a. Participants provided positive feedback for both the film and the moderator, reviewing new information gleaned from the movie and drawing parallels between data from the film and the Boost Your Brain and Memory program.
2. Participants also discussed May’s Aging Well Conference, providing suggestions for next year’s event.
3. Mr. Factor attended the Naomi Ruth Cohen Institute for Mental Health Education’s Seventeenth Annual Community Mental Health Conference on Older Adult Mental Health on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, deeming it “excellent.”
  - a. The event included a wide variety of presentations including one on hoarding by Ms. Thompson. Ms. Thompson gave a short description of the presentation and offered to provide attendees information on the Hoarding Taskforce and Field Guide, the latter of which will be emailed to attendees at a later date.
4. Participants were encouraged to review the Calendar of upcoming events.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. The Commission’s next meeting falls on Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, which is obviously immediate after a holiday. Attendees agreed that the holiday would not interfere with the Commission’s meeting and no changes to the scheduled date/time were made.
2. Ms. Thompson informed attendees of an upcoming CEU event provided by the Illinois Pioneer Coalition on Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center entitled, “Providing Person-Centered Care in Long-Term Care - Simple to Complex Ideas.”

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 6:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant