



**MEETING MINUTES**  
Commission on Aging  
Thursday, July 5, 2018 at ~7pm  
Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Avenue

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

**Members Absent:** Rick Gergerian, Bonnie Lockhart

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

**Guests:** Katherine Bridges; RJ Alban

**Presiding Member:** Mary Signatur, Chair

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**DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Chair Signatur called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of June 7, 2018**

The COA minutes from June 7, 2018 were approved with minor changes.

**PRESENTATION**

RJ Alban, Marketing Coordinator for The Merion, provided information on the SAGECare certification process that the facility recently completed to better address the needs of older LGBTQ+ adults. More information on the SAGECare program can be found online at <http://sageusa.care/>.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)*

LTCC Chair Love noted that the following had been discussed at the Long-Term Care Committee meeting held on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018:

1. Dr. Martha Twaddle was invited to speak at the 2018 Fall Presentation but will sadly be unable to make it. She has recommended a colleague, Dr. Julie Goldstein, to speak in her stead. The LTCC will meet next week and discuss options for speakers as well as the title for the presentation.
2. Although the Commission will not meet in August, LTCC will meet as regularly scheduled on Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### *Age-Friendly Evanston (AFE) Task Force*

1. There has been no update on the proposed two-year extension for the Age-Friendly Initiative.

### *Dementia-Friendly Committee*

1. Mr. Factor noted that additional recruitment efforts will be made to drum up interest in a second focus group at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, as the first group experienced a relatively low turnout.
2. An opportunity to recruit Latinx individuals has been presented thanks to the involvement of a PhD student at the Jane Addams College of Social Work who is pursuing a dissertation similar to topics encompassed by the focus groups. Mr. Factor plans to meet with this student to learn more about support groups currently held in the Pilsen/Franklin Park area and meet with individuals within those communities who might be willing to participate in a focus group as well.

## **CHAIR REPORT**

1. No Chair Report this month.

## **VICE CHAIR REPORT**

1. No Vice Chair Report this month.

## **STAFF REPORT**

LTC Ombudsman Ms. Thompson discussed the following:

1. The manager for Jacob Blake Manor is no longer employed with Universal Management. It was noted that this was the same individual about whom some concerns had been voiced during a previous Commission on Aging meeting.
  - a. While the position has not yet been filled, the manager from Primm Towers has been splitting her time between the two buildings to ensure residents' needs are being met until a new manager is hired.
2. On Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, there will be a Boards, Commissions, and Committees Summit in the Parasol Room at the Civic Center in which information on the Commission on Aging (and others) will be presented in an effort to garner interest in membership.
  - a. The Commission is awaiting appointment of several new members later this year, but continues to encourage interested parties to apply.
3. With the changes in the subsidized transportation program, there has been an increase in complaints regarding taxi drivers. For example, some drivers have reportedly informed riders that the City of Evanston charges them a fee when the new transportation card is used as payment. However, a small transaction fee is assessed to the vendor for every credit/debit card transaction, and no such fee is ever collected by the City or charged to the passenger.
  - a. Ms. Thompson and Ms. Jessica Hyink, Transportation and Mobility Coordinator for the City, plan to arrange a meeting with representatives from the Evanston-based taxicab companies to address issues brought to light by program users.
4. The Ombudsman office will welcome two new Volunteer Ombudsmen in the next few weeks, in addition to a new intern who is scheduled to begin in August.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Community events: Ms. Strong encouraged attendees to check out the Fleetwood-Jourdain Prime Time Players. She recently attended a showing of “From the Mississippi Delta” which was evidently “very good” and provided high-quality entertainment for a reasonable cost. More information about the Fleetwood-Jourdain Theater at Noyes, including upcoming shows, can be found on the City’s website:  
<https://www.cityofevanston.org/about-evanston/arts-and-culture/theatre/fleetwood-jourdain-theatre#ad-image-4>
2. The City concluded the Priority-Based Budgeting survey, tallying both online and paper-based feedback.
  - a. At a subsequent Human Services Committee meeting, it was determined that the overall process was generally not well-received by community members.
  - b. Each department’s programming will be reviewed to minimize duplicate services and determine where (or whether) there is room to cut costs. Recommendations are expected in August 2018.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. There is no update on when this year’s Not-for-Profit Day at the Evanston Farmer’s Market will be scheduled; the Commission typically participates during the event. Updates will be provided as soon as they are made available.
2. Mr. Factor presented a letter for attendees to review; the document represents support by the Commission for Age-Friendly Evanston’s housing committee’s grant proposal to the Evanston Community Foundation to fund a feasibility study to assess older residents’ needs for affordable housing in Evanston. The cost of the proposed study by Sawgrass Partners is \$7,500, with approximately \$2,500 being funded by private donors; the grant would cover the remaining balance.
  - a. Mr. Factor agreed to make adjustments to the letter based on recommendations of Commission members, and provide an updated version to secure approval before it is submitted.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. **The Commission will *not* meet in August.** The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. LTCC will meet on Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant