



MEETING NOTES

Commission on Aging
Thursday, November 8, 2018 at ~7pm
Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Avenue

Members Present: Marcia Achenbach, Litrea Hunter, Jeanie Ramsey, Frank Fennell, Mary Signatur

Members Absent: Alan Factor, Tom Giller, Catherine O'Brien, Bonnie Lockhart, Mark Payares, Rick Gergerian, and Dave Sutor

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

Guest: Jonah Flink (North Shore Senior Center)

Presiding Member: Louise Love, Vice Chair (Chair Alan Factor absent)

LACK OF QUORUM

Vice Chair Love called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Due to a lack of quorum, the meeting proceeded but no votes were taken or motions made.

DISCUSSION OF MEETING MINUTES of October 4, 2018

The COA minutes from October 4, 2018 could not be approved due to lack of quorum. Corrections for the minutes were discussed and the amended minutes will be voted on during the next Commission meeting in which a quorum is present.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST

Mr. Jonas Flink introduced himself as Senior Service Coordinator at North Shore Senior Center (NSSC), working out of the Civic Center and filling the position vacated by Mr. Giller. He plans to attend Commission meetings to stay abreast of City news that may be of interest to older adults and to provide additional information on NSSC events and resources as needed.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)

LTCC Chair Love noted that the Long-Term Care Committee did not meet in October. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14th and will include a full discussion of the evaluations for the Fall Presentation that was held on October 11th.

RELEVANT COMMITTEE UPDATES

Age-Friendly Business Initiative (AFBI)

1. Ms. Thompson informed attendees that 17 businesses have completed the AFBI Checklist online.
 - a. The next step will involve pairing each business with a volunteer who will meet with the business and review each checklist response to confirm that items marked “Yes” are, in fact, present, and discuss options for turning each “No” response into a “Yes.”
 - b. So far, the most common “No” on the checklist is in response to the question that states, “Does the business offer discounts to seniors?”
 - c. Many of the respondents have also inquired about additional organizations and resources for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Age-Friendly Evanston (AFE) Task Force: Dementia-Friendly

1. Dementia-Friendly continues to make strides in securing participants for focus groups representing a more diverse population, including members of the Hispanic and African American communities.
 - a. Ms. Thompson revealed that she will be presenting at Christ Temple Missionary Baptist Church (1711 Simpson) on Sunday, November 11th in an attempt to garner interest in one of the focus groups, as RSVPs to the focus group through more passive means such as posting flyers were not as robust as hoped.

CHAIR/VICE CHAIR UPDATE

1. Vice Chair Love noted that Mr. Green resigned from the Commission due to a recent move out-of-state. Additionally, Ms. Achenbach and Ms. Lockhart’s last Commission meeting will be on December 6th, 2018.

STAFF UPDATE

LTC Ombudsman Ms. Thompson discussed the following:

1. The Ombudsman program has been enjoying the uptick in activities and facility visits with the addition of several new volunteers.
2. There has been an increase in tags/citations from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) during annual site visits and complaint investigations, which might be due to the changes in the survey process.
 - a. Ms. Sadler mentioned that the last facility to receive a visit from IDPH for both the annual health survey and a complaint was Presbyterian Homes; although the initial IDPH mailing showed only one tag, it turned out from additional mailings that the facility was actually cited for eight additional tags on that same visit and the single tag had been in response to a complaint.
3. Wheel Tax season is upon those who have vehicles registered to an address in Evanston. Ms. Thompson and Ms. Sadler will be visiting several long-term care facilities to process Wheel Tax payments and complete Evanston Benefit Card applications so residents can receive a discount on this fee.

4. Ms. Thompson recently presented at The Mather to give residents a view into what's happening in the City. This included information on the City's proposed budget, as described below.
 - a. The City of Evanston proposed a budget that included reductions in many different areas. Some of the most contested changes include: a \$250,000 cut to the Mental Health Board; moving Kevin Brown from Youth and Young Adult services to become the manager of workforce development in the Community Development Department; doubling the parking meter rates; and closing Fire Station 4.
 - b. The proposed budget will be discussed at the next Council meeting on Monday, November 12th.
5. Mr. Bob Dorneker, Assistant Director of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services department, will be retiring this month after 32 years working for the City.
6. Ms. Thompson will begin completing applications for the Rebuilding Together (RT) program in November and December. Attendees were invited to refer potential participants to Ms. Thompson or Ms. Sadler for consideration.
 - a. RT is especially interested in projects that require unskilled labor such as painting, yardwork, cleaning, and sorting; while recent projects have entailed a great deal of work, most of the labor required skilled professionals and were not as accessible to volunteers.
 - b. RT's staff contacts at Northwestern University are no longer working there, and it is not yet known whether the new contact will support involvement in the program or to what extent.
7. Commission members reviewed proposed changes to City Boards, Commissions, and Committees (BCCs); under this proposal, the Commission would be combined with several other BCCs in an attempt to reduce the amount of time City staff spend on each meeting.
 - a. Ms. Thompson noted that this is not the first time the City had made an effort to combine BCCs.
 - b. Since last month's conversation, Ms. Signatur composed a draft for a letter from the Commission opposing the proposed changes, using input from Commission members during the October meeting. She requested additional feedback from Commission members before finalizing a draft to be submitted to City Council.
8. There is a Power of Attorney and Living Will workshop scheduled for Friday, November 9th starting at 1:30pm at the Levy Center. Almost 50 people have already signed up to complete these documents with volunteer attorneys from the Center for Disability and Elder Law and other legal firms in the Chicagoland area. The workshop event is a follow-up to the Fall Presentation from October 11th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Attendees briefly reviewed the ongoing search for a new Police Chief, as Chief Eddington is slated to retire at the end of December 2018.
 - a. There was an additional community gathering in which Evanston residents could provide feedback on the selection process, but meeting attendees were unsure whether anyone from the Commission went.
 - b. Previously, there was some interest in completing a letter from the Commission outlining issues of importance to older adults to be taken into consideration during the hiring process; merits of drafting such a letter were discussed.
2. Attendees were asked to review the Commission's workplan, which will be discussed and amended/approved during the next meeting that achieves a quorum.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Linking Generations will be re-starting in spring 2019. Several members of the Commission previously enjoyed participating in this intergenerational art program; Vice Chair Love will send members an email with more information.
2. Members discussed the Commission's involvement in providing the gifts to the grandparents who participate in the Grandparents Raising Grandkids group.
 - a. Attendees were given the option of continuing with this group or choosing another group/organization from the community, but ultimately opted to continue providing gifts to the Grandparents of this group.
 - b. North Shore Senior Center will provide Ms. Thompson with the total number of grandparents involved in the group this year so the Commission can determine how many gifts/gift cards to purchase.
3. Commission members were asked if Liz Gordon could attend next month's meeting to discuss the PEARLS program and North Shore Senior Center offerings. Attendees agreed that this would be appropriate.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday, December 6th. The LTCC will reconvene on Wednesday, November 14th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 7:50pm without a motion due to lack of quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant