



MEETING MINUTES

Commission on Aging

Thursday, December 6, 2018 at ~7pm
Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Avenue

Members Present: Louise Love, Mary Signatur, Mark Payares, Rick Gergerian, Marcia Achenbach, Catherine O'Brien, Litrea Hunter, Dave Sutor, and Frank Fennell

Members Absent: Jeanie Ramsey, Bonnie Lockhart, and Tom Giller

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

Guests: Liz Gordon, Director, North Shore Senior Options

Presiding Member: Alan Factor, Chair

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

With a quorum present, Chair Factor called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of October 5, 2018

The COA minutes from October 5th, 2018 were approved with one change. The minutes were not approved during last month's meeting due to lack of quorum; similarly, no formal minutes were taken during the November 2nd meeting but Commission members were provided with notes on topics discussed during last month's meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Ms. Liz Gordon presented information on North Shore Senior Options and fee-for-service offerings, along with special thanks for the Commission's generous donations to the grandparents involved in the Grandparents Raising Grandkids group, which held its annual holiday party on Saturday, December 1. North Shore Senior Options provides numerous programs and services for older adults including in-home safety assessments, daily money management, and guardianships services. More information on the programs and contact information for pricing can be found online: <https://www.northshoresenioroptions.org/>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)

LTCC Chair Love provided an overview of the Long-Term Care Committee meeting on November 14th, 2018.

1. During last month's meeting, Committee members were provided with copies of the evaluation summary for the 2018 Fall Presentation and discussed the overwhelmingly positive feedback.
 - a. Although the event enjoyed a robust turnout, Committee members plan to expand marketing efforts for next year's event, including possibly reaching out to EvanstonNow and the Evanston RoundTable for additional promotions, and including more details on the City's website.
 - b. Additionally, if a topic and speaker can be identified farther in advance, the Committee would like to advertise the event in the City's Life magazine.
2. Attendees discussed potential facility site visits for 2019, including possible tours of Alden Estates, Greenwood Care, Three Crowns, and Dobson Plaza. Committee members will finalize plans during the next meeting in January. Members voted to skip the December meeting.

RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Age-Friendly Business Initiative (AFBI)

1. Ms. Thompson noted that seventeen businesses initially completed the AFBI's online checklist to assess their current age-friendly attributes, although one later withdrew.
2. The next step to achieving Age-Friendly Business status entails meeting with a volunteer from the AFBI to discuss checklist results; five businesses have already hosted such a collaborative meeting.
3. Another press release is forthcoming to drum up additional interest, and business leaders within the community were contacted again to thank them for their efforts thus far and encourage them to remind their businesses of the benefits of participating.
4. Ms. Thompson asked Commission members to consider volunteering for the next phase of the AFBI process, in which each business will be visited by at least three secret shoppers within 60 days of their in-person collaborative meeting with an AFBI representative.
 - a. Secret shopping efforts will include calling the business, visiting the business' website, and in-person visits.
 - b. Volunteers will be provided with a list of possible questions or things to look for and be aware of during the secret shopping outing to determine if what businesses are *saying* they do for their customers is actually occurring in practice.

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

1. Chair Factor informed attendees of the Committee's formulation of a list of local community leaders to serve as potential contacts for future involvement in Dementia-Friendly efforts; however, the Committee continues to discuss possible next steps and future direction.
 - a. The next step will likely involve a community event or other form of outreach to provide education and resources.

Age-Friendly Evanston (AFE) Task Force: Affordable Housing

1. Chair Factor informed attendees that the Housing committee received a grant from the Evanston Community Foundation, the application for which the Commission previously offered its support. Ms. Susan Cherco is slated to present at the Housing and Homelessness meeting to discuss funding for the feasibility study to assess older residents' need for affordable housing.

CHAIR REPORT

1. Chair Factor mentioned that he attended the Grandparents Raising Grandkids holiday party over the weekend along with a couple of former Commission members. He noted that there seemed to be fewer participants this year, though this impression could have been due to the earlier time for the event. A good time was had by all!

VICE CHAIR REPORT

No Vice Chair report this month.

STAFF REPORT

LTC Ombudsman Ms. Thompson discussed the following:

1. The Ombudsman office has expanded! Ombudsman administrative services moved to a new office space in the City's Civic Center, while the Levy Center office will be used for appointments and in-person meetings with individuals from the community.
 - a. The Levy Center space will also serve as a social service office staffed with volunteers who can provide assistance with various applications and provide various resources.
 - b. Ms. Cherco is currently volunteering at Levy on Thursdays from 11:30am to 2:30pm, and another volunteer, Ms. Michelle Males, will be providing assistance on Tuesdays between 10am and 4pm starting in January 2019.
 - c. Office hours and services will expand as new volunteers are recruited.
2. Attendees were invited to refer potential Rebuilding Together participants to Ms. Thompson or Ms. Sadler for consideration. Ms. Thompson has already assisted several individuals in completing these applications to provide necessary large-scale repairs that will help homeowners remain in their homes.
3. Ms. Thompson apprised attendees of an impending state audit of the Ombudsman program, slated to occur in January 2019.
4. The current State Ombudsman is resigning due to an out-of-state move, but her replacement has already been selected.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Commission members discussed the COA workplan. A motion to approve the workplan as written was seconded and approved through a voice vote.
2. Ms. Thompson provided a brief update on the City of Evanston's budget for 2019, which was recently approved with some changes from its original iteration.

- a. Taxes are slated to increase, and although some parking rates are also increasing, the change is not as dramatic as originally planned.
 - b. City staff will see a reduction in cell phone stipends but there have been no updates regarding potential furlough dates for 2019.
 - c. Restructuring and reorganization of different City departments remains a possibility.
3. Commission members reviewed a letter drafted by Vice Chair Love registering objections to the proposed changes to City Boards, Commissions, and Committees (BCCs). Under this proposal, the Commission would be combined with several other BCCs with which there are few readily-apparent connections.
- a. A motion to approve the letter and email it to City Manager Bobkiewicz, Mayor Hagerty, and City Aldermen with changes discussed in this evening's meeting was seconded and approved unanimously with a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Participants discussed the possibility of changing the Commission's meeting time to an earlier hour. A poll will be circulated so members can vote on potential times.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Ms. Thompson offered a suggestion for 2019's community meeting, which the Commission typically hosts in conjunction with a monthly meeting, involving reverse mortgages as presented by Mr. Stephan Rooney from American Advisory Group. Ms. Thompson offered to provide additional details during the next Commission meeting.
2. Chair Factor and the rest of the Commission bid farewell to Ms. Marcia Achenbach, thanking her for her years of service on the Commission.
3. A motion to skip the January 2019 meeting for the Commission was seconded and approved with a voice vote. The next Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, February 1, 2019 at 7pm.
4. The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday, February 7th. The LTCC will **not** meet in December, and will reconvene on Wednesday, January 9th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant