



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

Members Present: Mary Signatur, Mark Payares, Rick Gergerian, Catherine O'Brien, Dave Sutor, Jeanie Ramsey, Bonnie Lockhart, Tom Giller, and Frank Fennell

Members Absent: Litrea Hunter and Louise Love

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

Guests: Jonas Flink, North Shore Senior Center

Presiding Member: Alan Factor, Chair

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

With a quorum present, Chair Factor called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of December 6, 2018

The COA minutes from December 6th, 2018 were approved with minor changes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)

LTCC Chair Love was absent for this meeting, but Ms. Thompson provided an overview of the Long-Term Care Committee's most recent meeting on January 9th, 2019.

1. The Committee has already begun planning for the 2019 Fall Presentation, which will likely be scheduled for October again this year.
2. Although no topic has yet been finalized, initial interest has centered on reframing the concept of aging.
3. The Committee's first long-term care site visit is scheduled for Thursday, February 21 at 4pm at Three Crowns Park.

RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Age-Friendly Evanston (AFE)

1. The next Age-Friendly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19th at 2pm in room 2402 at the Civic Center.

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

1. Chair Factor noted that the Committee received unanimous approval from Evanston's City Council for \$2,500 to supplement the grant the Committee already earned for a feasibility study regarding housing for older adults. The Committee plans to meet with Sawgrass Partners on February 20th to discuss the next steps in the process.
2. Chair Factor mentioned that a 60-unit rental property providing affordable housing for older adults is planned for a location on Howard Street near CJE's adult day center building.

Age-Friendly Evanston: Business Initiative (AFBI)

1. Ms. Thompson updated attendees on efforts to meet with businesses that completed the AFBI checklist.
 - a. Volunteers were contacted earlier today with an opportunity to meet with five additional businesses that provided availability to host such a meeting.
 - b. Once a business is paired with an available volunteer, that individual will schedule the meeting with the business and provide Ms. Thompson and Ms. Sadler with an overview of the meeting once completed.
 - c. After the collaborative meeting is completed, secret shoppers will be asked to visit the business within 60 days of their in-person collaborative meeting with an AFBI representative.
 - i. Secret shopping efforts will include calling the business, visiting the business' website, and in-person visits.
 - ii. 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 Task Force: Dementia-Friendly Committee

1. Chair Factor informed attendees that there will be a community forum on March 19th at 6:30pm for the Chicago chapter of the Illinois Alzheimer Society. The event will take place at the Evanston Public Library; Dementia-Friendly will be helping publicize the event. (See also: <https://evanston.libnet.info/event/1554451>)

CHAIR REPORT

1. Chair Factor mentioned that several members of the Commission and other community partners attended AgeOptions' annual Legislative Breakfast at Northshore Senior Center in Northfield on Friday, February 1st. There was noticeable enthusiasm and optimism regarding the direction of legislature involving and affecting older adults given the election of a new Governor.
 - a. Ms. Signatur mentioned that the information AgeOptions provides during these Breakfasts is well-organized and provides a great overview of issues relevant to older adults and those who provide services/care to them. Additionally, these meetings are an excellent opportunity to ask questions to be addressed by legislators themselves.

VICE CHAIR REPORT

No Vice Chair report this month, as Vice Chair Love was not present.

STAFF REPORT

LTC Ombudsman Ms. Thompson discussed the following:

1. Symphony of Evanston recently hosted its third monthly Family Council meeting. Each meeting has been well-attended and changes related to feedback from the Council have already been observed.
2. The Ombudsman program intends to provide in-service opportunities for staff at Alden Estates in February.
3. Ombudsmen visited multiple facilities immediately prior to the extreme weather at the end of January to ensure they were prepared to ensure adequate staffing while also keeping residents safe in- and outside of the building. Facilities were creative in facilitating transportation for staff to get to and from work and there were no reported issues.
4. The Ombudsman program recently hosted its first program audit performed by the State Ombudsman's office.
 - a. One recommendation was to scale back on or eliminate services Ms. Thompson provides in the community in order to focus entirely on nursing homes.
 - b. Ms. Thompson has been working to transition many senior services to appropriate departments. For example, Ms. Thompson and a representative from Adult Protective Services (APS) will be meeting with fire department personnel to ensure they know whom to contact to fulfill their mandated reporter responsibilities. Additionally, volunteers will be helping out with upcoming Power of Attorney workshops scheduled for 2019 and staffing the Senior Service office at Levy.
5. As of January 1st, 2019, APS has been granted jurisdiction to investigate complaints of abuse/neglect/financial exploitation in nursing homes, provided that the alleged perpetrator resides in the community and is not affiliated with the facility in which the resident lives.
6. The City's transportation resource fair was rescheduled for Thursday, March 7th from 1-3pm. The original January 31st event was cancelled due to extreme cold.
 - a. Representatives from Norshore and American taxi companies, RTA, CTA, Lyft, and CJE will be present to answer questions and provide information about their companies' services.
 - b. The fair aims to encourage coupon users to transition to the City's transportation card and provide information on alternative modes of transportation that are accessible for card users but also for those who no longer qualify for the transportation program under the Evanston Benefit Card.
 - c. Current Benefit Card holders will be sent new invitations to the rescheduled event.
7. The waitlist for subsidized housing managed by the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) opened on February 5th and will close on the 19th. Volunteers

working with Ms. Thompson in the Senior Service office at the Levy Center are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays to help interested parties apply for the waitlist; two HACC-operated buildings are located in Evanston. Appointments are required, and volunteers available between 11am and 3pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Commission members discussed hosting a community meeting with a representative from American Advisory Group regarding reverse mortgages. Attendees considered whether a meeting with one individual on this topic might appear to be an endorsement for the organization and/or reverse mortgages specifically. Involving more representatives on a variety of subjects related to financial health and home ownership might extend the meeting or require additional resources not typically involved with Commission community meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ms. Lockhart announced that she has transitioned to a new role as Wellness Nurse at The Mather. She has been in the role since approximately November and things are going well.
2. Chair Factor asked whether there exists a list of resources, services, and organizations for older adults in Evanston. Such a list can be difficult to manage since this information changes fairly frequently; the closest approximation to such a list can be found on the Evanston Public Library's website or the Elderworks directory published annually.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday, March 7th. The LTCC will meet on Wednesday, March 13th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant