



## **MEETING MINUTES**

Commission on Aging

Thursday, March 7, 2018 at ~7pm

Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Avenue

**Members Present:** Mary Signatur, Rick Gergerian, Dave Sutor, Jeanie Ramsey, Tom Giller, Litrea Hunter, and Louise Love

**Members Absent:** Catherine O'Brien, Bonnie Lockhart, Mark Payares, and Frank Fennell

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

**Guests:** None

**Presiding Member:** Alan Factor, Chair

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### **DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

With a quorum present, Chair Factor called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of February 7, 2019**

The COA minutes from February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 were approved with minor changes.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### *Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)*

LTCC Chair Love was absent for the February 13<sup>th</sup> LTCC meeting, but was able to provide an update based on Minutes provided to her after the meeting.

1. The Committee continues to plan for the 2019 Fall Presentation, conferring with Dr. Jennifer Smith from Mather LifeWays at the last meeting to discuss her research in the realm of aging.
2. Although no topic has yet been finalized, interest has centered on reframing the concept of aging. Dr. Smith has agreed to be one of the presenters.
3. The Committee's first long-term care site visit was scheduled for Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 4pm at Three Crowns Park. Although only one LTCC member

was able to attend along with Ms. Sadler and Social Services Intern Danielle Patterson, feedback from the visit was positive.

### **RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### *Age-Friendly Evanston: Business Initiative (AFBI)*

1. Ms. Thompson updated attendees on efforts to meet with businesses that completed the AFBI checklist.
  - a. Ms. Sue Canter has been working hard to garner interest in the Initiative. She has approached numerous businesses to encourage them to complete the online checklist, which will then be followed by a visit from an AFBI volunteer to discuss the checklist results.
  - b. Ms. Thompson mentioned the need for more resources to provide to businesses that need to improve accessibility.
    - i. Currently, there is only one resource available for these types of services. The City does not want to appear biased toward that particular organization; Ms. Thompson will be working to discover other organizations that provide similar services so this information can be disseminated upon request to businesses needing to make changes in their accessibility.

#### *Age-Friendly Evanston Task Force: Dementia-Friendly Committee*

1. Chair Factor reminded attendees that there will be a community forum on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 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, but attendees were invited to pass the information along as well. Flyers were provided to Commission members. (See also: <https://evanston.libnet.info/event/1554451>.)
2. Dementia-Friendly Evanston scheduled a forum on Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia scheduled for Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> featuring a geriatrician from Rush University, Dr. Raj Shah, at the Evanston Public Library. More information will be provided as the date approaches.
3. Ms. Signatur noted that Ms. Becky Ramsey is working to develop a dementia resource center on the third floor of the Evanston Public Library.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

1. Chair Factor noted that a new Director for the Illinois Department on Aging was recently appointed by the governor.
2. Chair Factor also mentioned that he recently attended an open house for a senior-friendly residence on Keeney, noting which aspects of the home appeared to be geared toward older adults (such as a lack of changes in elevation in flooring, wider doorways, etc.).

3. Mr. Factor distributed copies of a handout on the Disability Integration Act, which ensures that people with disabilities have a right to live and receive services in their own homes. It also prevents disabled people from being forced into institutional settings by “unnecessary government regulations.”

### **VICE CHAIR REPORT**

No Vice Chair report this month.

### **STAFF REPORT**

LTC Ombudsman Ms. Thompson discussed the following:

1. The 2019 Aging Well Conference is scheduled for Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Levy Center.
  - a. Nominations are now open for the annual Aging Well Award. Attendees were encouraged to submit their nominations before voting occurs at the next Aging Well Committee meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. The Aging Will Film Night is on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and will feature a film about Mayor Lorraine Morton.
2. The Ombudsman office hosted a Transportation Resource Fair earlier today, and Ms. Thompson thanked all volunteers who helped make the event a success. The large turnout really speaks to the need for more transportation options in and around the City.
3. Ms. Thompson has attended a number of meetings with fire and police department personnel to clarify the role of mandated reporters within these organizations and to ensure staff know how and when to make reports to Adult Protective Services (APS).
  - a. More meetings and presentations in conjunction with APS are on the horizon, and pertinent policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated.
  - b. These meetings have underscored the need for a social services office at the City level, as well as the gaps in services already provided.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Commission members continued discussions about a community meeting.
  - a. One previously-explored topic included reverse mortgages, but no consensus was reached regarding how this topic could be discussed without seeming as though the Commission and/or City was endorsing reverse mortgages in general or one company specifically.
  - b. Mr. Tom Giller suggested a presentation on budgeting, which could be completed in one of the four senior buildings in the City. Attendees agreed that this would be a more universally-applicable topic and agreed to move forward on this subject.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Ms. Thompson mentioned that May's Commission meeting falls on the evening before the Aging Well Conference, which can disrupt preparation for the event. Attendees of the April Commission meeting will discuss the possibility of moving the May meeting to the second Thursday of the month instead.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Mr. Giller noted that Mr. Jonas Flink from North Shore Senior Center passed away shortly after the February Commission meeting, which he had attended as a guest. Joe Levy Jr. passed away in February as well.
2. The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. The LTCC will meet on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant