



## **MEETING MINUTES**

Commission on Aging

Thursday, June 6, 2019 at ~7pm

Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Avenue

**Members Present:** Louise Love, Mary Signatur, Rick Gergerian (via phone), Mark Payares, Catherine O'Brien, Jeanie Ramsey, and Frank Fennell

**Members Absent:** Dave Sutor, Litrea Hunter, Bonnie Lockhart, Lonnie Wilson, and Tom Giller

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

**Guests:** Avi Kaufman, North Shore Senior Center; Doreen Price, community member

**Presiding Member:** Alan Factor, Chair

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### **DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

With a quorum present, Chair Factor called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of April 4, 2019**

The COA minutes from April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 were approved as written.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

1. LTCC Chair Love advised attendees that the Committee continues to plan the 2019 Fall Presentation, which will be titled, "Reimagine Aging: How Our Thoughts Shape Our Experience." The Commission's own Cate O'Brien will serve as one of the presenters along with her colleague at Mather LifeWays, Dr. Jennifer Smith.
2. Members are in the process of contacting potential sponsors for the event.

### **RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Discussion regarding the Age-Friendly Evanston Task Force and related committees occurred during the New Business portion of today's meeting.

**CHAIR REPORT**

No Chair report this month.

**VICE CHAIR REPORT**

No Vice Chair report this month.

**STAFF REPORT**

1. LTC Ombudsman Ms. Thompson discussed her participation in the Social Services Core Committee over the past few months, as the City strives to assess the social services available to residents and improve equity of their distribution.
  - a. The Committee is comprised of representatives from Parks, Recreation and Community Services as well as the Health Department. The concept of “equity” is being viewed through a racial lens; conversation ensued regarding what this entails.
  - b. The Committee will host a public meeting on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3pm at the Levy Center. Community members are encouraged to provide feedback on what services they would like to see from the City and offer suggestions for improvement as to how services can be distributed more equitably.
2. Ms. Sadler provided updates on activities by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) in Evanston’s long-term care facilities since January.
  - a. Alden Estates hosted their Annual Health survey in December 2018; the visit yielded no tags (citations/violations). Ms. Sadler mentioned that having no violations during an annual visit is so unusual that the report from IDPH was initially overlooked because it was such a thin packet of information. Only after contacting IDPH regarding the matter did it become clear that there were no violations.
  - b. IDPH completed a complaint investigation at Aperion Care in mid-March and found no deficiencies; it was determined that the complaint was identical to another complaint for the same resident back in January and the family merely re-reported the issue.
  - c. The Mather completed their Annual Health and Life Safety surveys toward the end of May.
    - i. Under the Health survey the facility received two tags (one for nebulizer treatments and another for food storage); the facility received the same tags during a 2018 survey.
    - ii. During the Life Safety survey, the facility earned three tags related to sprinklers, smoke detectors, and fire drills.
    - iii. Ms. Thompson mentioned that Mather’s Administrator is no longer with the organization as he accepted another position. His last day was on Friday, May 31. Mather is presently looking for an interim Administrator.

- d. Symphony had a visit from IDPH in March for two complaints, which ultimately yielded one tag when the investigation revealed that the facility had used a Hoyer lift calibrated for one resident weighing around 170 pounds to move another resident who should have used a lift with a 300-pound capacity.
  - i. In a separate visit in May, IDPH completed their Annual Health and Life Safety surveys while also addressing three complaints.
    1. Annual Health investigations resulted in one tag related to residents keeping unlabeled and/or expired food in their own refrigerators.
    2. The Life Safety survey yielded 10 tags (down from last year's 12). Of these 10 tags, four were for issues that also occurred during 2018's annual survey, and six were repeated violations from 2017.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Commission members provided feedback on the 2019 Aging Well Conference and shared ideas for next year's event.
2. Ms. Thompson noted that the Ombudsman has facilitated three Power of Attorney presentation/workshop combinations so far this year with volunteers from the Center for Disability and Elder Law. There are five more events scheduled for the year, including one at Levy in the fall and one at each of the four subsidized senior housing buildings. COA/LTCC member Ms. Litrea Hunter has played a vital role in ensuring the events go off without a hitch.
3. Attendees were provided with a copy of an advertisement for volunteers needed in the Senior Services/Long-Term Care Ombudsman office, and encouraged to pass it on to interested parties.
  - a. One of the volunteer opportunities is helping with the Age-Friendly Business Initiative, which will need secret shoppers during the month of July to ensure businesses in the Initiative are as age-friendly as they have self-reported.
  - b. Another opportunity involves assisting with the Senior Service office at the Levy Center, where assistance with a variety of applications is provided; Ms. Thompson trained a new volunteer earlier today for this role.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Volunteers are needed for the Evanston Farmer's Market on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> between 7am and noon.
2. A motion to change the date of the Commission's July meeting to Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> due to the Fourth of July holiday was seconded and approved by a voice vote.

- a. Attendees were asked to consider again the possibility of changing the time of the Commission meeting to an earlier hour to better accommodate those who rely on public transportation or PACE paratransit. Discussion was tabled at this time due to more pressing items on the agenda.
3. Commission members were reminded of the need to schedule at least one more community meeting for the year. It was proposed that Deputy City Manager, Kimberly Richardson, be asked to provide more information on the topic of equity, as she has been at the helm of the Social Services Core Committee since its inception. The community meeting was tentatively earmarked for September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Evanston Public Library.
4. Attendees were reminded that the World Health Organization's grant to fund the Age-Friendly Evanston Task Force will end on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.
  - a. Ms. Thompson noted that it was possible for other Committees, organizations, or Commissions to absorb parts of the Task Force in order to continue their work.
  - b. Absorption of any part of the Task Force would entail assigning someone to continue providing updates on the designated committee's progress toward goals.
  - c. The Dementia-Friendly committee will likely be absorbed by Argentium Care (formerly SASI), but committees for the Business Initiative, Transportation, and Housing still need to find a new home.
    - i. Commission members agreed that the COA would absorb the Age-Friendly Business Initiative and Transportation committees once the Task Force is dissolved, due to current involvement in these bodies.
    - ii. Ideas for possible partners or organizations that could continue the work of the Housing committee were discussed; it was ultimately decided that the Housing committee should have a chance to weigh in on where their work should continue, so the COA will wait to hear what Housing thinks about the matter.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Ms. Thompson noted that Ms. Carol Mullins, current member of the Long-Term Care Committee, lost her husband last weekend.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant