MEETING MINUTES
Commission on Aging
Thursday, November 7, 2019 at ~4pm
Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Avenue

Members Present: Mary Signatur, Litrea Hunter, Jeanie Ramsey, Mark Payares, Catherine O’Brien, Tom Giller, and Frank Fennell

Members Absent: Rick Gergerian, Bonnie Lockhart, Lonnie Wilson, and Dave Sutor

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

Guests: Adrienne Allen, community member; Amanda Sabri, North Shore Senior Center

Presiding Member: Alan Factor, Chair

DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present, Chair Factor called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of October 3, 2019
The COA minutes from October 3rd, 2019 were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)
1. The October LTCC meeting was canceled; the November meeting will take place at 2:30pm on Thursday, November 14th at the Levy Center. Those who wish to attend the fourth and final site visit of the year are welcome to go directly to Dobson Plaza after the LTCC meeting.
2. Results from evaluations disseminated at the 2019 Fall Presentation will be reviewed at the next LTCC meeting.

RELEVANT COMMITTEE REPORTS
Age-Friendly Evanston Task Force (AFE)
1. The upcoming meeting in December marks the final meeting for AFE. A reception is being planned as a thank you to Chair Susan Cherco and the representatives who have worked so diligently on Age-Friendly initiatives over the past six years; all are invited to attend.

_Dementia-Friendly Evanston (DFE)_

1. Dementia-Friendly Evanston is hosting an event on Saturday, November 9th at the Evanston Public Library, entitled, “Facing Dementia: Exploring Our Resources.” There are already 80 registrants; reminders were sent out yesterday and registration will close tomorrow.

_Age-Friendly Business Initiative (AFBI)_

1. From now until the end of 2019, community members are encouraged to submit survey responses regarding experiences at new businesses that recently applied for Age-Friendly Business status.

2. The promotional video filmed to announce the Age-Friendly Business with the most survey responses from the last round of surveys collected in July 2019 was completed and featured the Commission's own Ms. Audrey Thompson.

_Affordable Housing (AH)_

1. The October meeting of AH was canceled, and the next meeting date is pending.

2. Chair Factor noted that he attended a program at the Levy Center which provided more information on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) including details on zoning requirements and discussion on how building or converting spaces on one’s own property can help older adults downsize and remain close to family and loved ones.

3. Chair Factor resolved that ADU development doesn’t necessarily increase housing stock in the City, and there is still a need for more affordable housing options overall.

**CHAIR REPORT**

No Chair Report this month.

**VICE CHAIR REPORT**

No Vice Chair report this month.

**STAFF REPORT**

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Ms. Thompson provided the following information:

1. Similar to years prior, the Ombudsman office is offering assistance to community members who wish to apply for free home repairs through the Rebuilding Together (RT) program.
a. Attendees were encouraged to pass along Ms. Thompson’s contact information to individuals interested in learning more about RT. Ms. Thompson meets applicants in person to complete the application in their homes to gain an understanding of what tasks need to be done; this process typically improves the chances of the application being approved than when an individual completes it on their own.

2. Although the Foster Club had scheduled an outing to tour local supportive living facilities as part of an ongoing educational series hosted by Ms. Thompson, inclement weather necessitated that it be canceled. A new date for the tours has yet to be determined.

3. The City’s Snow Shoveling program is now being managed by Ms. Thompson’s office. Individuals who are interested in serving as volunteers and those who want to request assistance are asked to contact 3-1-1 to sign up.

4. Ms. Sadler provided a brief update on activities by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) in Evanston’s long-term care facilities since the last meeting.
   a. IDPH completed a visit at Symphony on October 9th, 2019 to investigate three complaints. No deficiencies were identified, and the Ombudsman office therefore has no additional details on the nature of the complaints.
   b. Ms. Thompson noted that The Grove has recently been in the news due to increased scrutiny surrounding a fine of about $25,000 that was levied against the facility for failing to report a resident’s change in condition.
      i. Ms. Thompson mentioned that she has been in touch with the Evanston Police Department (EPD) regarding when or if it is appropriate for EPD to be notified in these circumstances.
      ii. Ms. Thompson noted that if EPD felt they needed to be notified for changes in a resident’s health status, this same requirement should also exist for other health care providers including hospitals; this is therefore not a viable avenue because EPD would have to dedicate numerous resources on these reports and wouldn’t be able to focus on much else. Additionally, it was not clear what interventions the EPD could or would be able to provide in these circumstances.
   c. Ms. Thompson mentioned that the office will likely see an increase in complaints overall as staff and volunteers continue to maintain a regular presence in buildings and are now asking more questions regarding whether residents are being involved in their Care Planning process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Attendees reviewed Ms. Kimberly Richardson’s presentation at the last COA meeting, in which she discussed the City’s efforts to improve equity in service provision. Attendees agreed that the information was extremely helpful and that an even longer presentation probably could have been warranted.
2. Ms. Thompson noted that Mr. Ike Ogbo is the new Director of Health and Human Services. Starting January 2020, Ms. Thompson and Ms. Sadler’s division will fall under the Health and Human Services department; Ms. Thompson will be able to hire a new Regional Ombudsman whose sole focus will be on nursing home-related services.

NEW BUSINESS
1. Attendees discussed upcoming Grandparents Raising Grandkids (GRG) holiday party, scheduled for Saturday, December 14th from 11am to 2pm. The COA has traditionally provided gifts or gift cards to the grandparents in this group.
   a. After some discussion and feedback from Ms. Amanda Sabri, COA guest and staff member from North Shore Senior Services facilitating the GRG group, it was determined that gift cards would be presented to members again this year. COA and LTCC members who wish to chip in will be asked to bring $20-25 to the next Commission meeting (or prior to that) so Ms. Thompson can purchase the cards before the holiday party.
2. Ms. Thompson informed attendees that Mr. Patrick Hughes has offered to host another accessibility tour, as it has been a number of years since the last one was offered. The tour is designed to highlight accessibility issues throughout the City and show where and how these issues are being addressed. Attendees agreed that this opportunity is of interest; potential dates and times for such a tour will be discussed at the December meeting.
3. Attendees discussed the currently-vacant position of Vice President of the Commission, reviewing the expectations for the role. Ms. Jeanie Ramsey generously volunteered her expertise and was unanimously approved by voice vote as new Vice Chair.

COMMUNICATIONS
1. The Long-Term Care Commission will meet on Thursday, November 14 at 2:30pm in the Levy Center’s Oak Room, transitioning to the site visit at Dobson Plaza immediately following the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 4:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Callie Sadler, Ombudsman Assistant