MEETING NOTES
Commission on Aging
Thursday, July 2, 2020 at ~4pm
Online Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Mary Signatur, Litrea Hunter, and Frank Fennell

Members Absent: Mark Payares, Jeanie Ramsey, Tom Giller, Bonnie Lockhart, Dave Sutor, Adrienne Allen, Rick Gergerian, Catherine O’Brien, and Lonnie Wilson

Staff Present: Audrey Thompson, Community Services Manager; Callie Sadler, Senior Services Advocate

Presiding Member: Alan Factor, Chair

DECLARATION OF QUORUM
The meeting began at 4:03pm, but no quorum was present to officially call the meeting to order.

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES of June 4, 2020
Minutes were reviewed, but could not be formally approved due to lack of quorum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Long-Term Care Committee (LTCC)
1. Ms. Thompson and LTCC Chair Hunter discussed future meetings of the LTCC, given that the Committee’s primary functions are to plan the Fall Presentation, which has been canceled or at least postponed indefinitely, and to plan and attend site visits at long-term care facilities, which are not currently advised given the pandemic. It was determined that the Committee will be provided with updates relevant to long-term care facilities, but meetings (virtual or in-person) will be suspended for the time being.

Dementia-Friendly Evanston Initiative (DFEI)
1. Ms. Ramsey was not present at today’s meeting to provide an update, but it was noted that DFEI met in June for the first time since March. Updated logos, rules, and the membership application were approved. Given that DFEI was heretofore
focused on planning community events, which are cancelled or postponed indefinitely, it remains to be seen how frequently DFEI will be meeting in the near future.

Affordable Housing (AH)
1. Chair Factor noted that there have been no recent AH meetings.

CHAIR REPORT
Chair Report integrated into Communications.

VICE CHAIR REPORT
No Vice Chair report this month.

STAFF REPORT
Community Services Manager Ms. Thompson provided the following information:
1. Ombudsmen are being advised to resume visits to long-term care facilities, with modifications to ensure safety. For example, Ombudsmen are encouraged to maintain social distancing, wear masks, and conduct visits either outdoors or through windows.
   a. Complicating factors include the following:
      i. Facilities are not currently required to permit visits, whether it be for Ombudsmen or friends/families. Those that are making allowances are limiting the number of people who visit at one time and require screening and scheduling in advance.
      ii. Inclement weather may force scheduled visits to be cancelled.
      iii. Facilities may be unsuited for window visits, as many Evanston LTC buildings do not have resident rooms on the first floor.
      iv. Ombudsman visits are encouraged for facilities in “closed” status, meaning there have been no new COVID-19 cases on-site within the past 28 days; however, the vast majority of facilities in Illinois do not meet this criterion. Moreover, the IDPH website that provides information on open/closed facilities is not always fully up-to-date, which makes it harder to determine which facilities are viable candidates for visits.

2. Ms. Thompson and Volunteer Ombudsman Margaret Gergen have located a resource called Uniper, which helps turn regular televisions into smart TVs so users can interact with live programs. Ms. Thompson hopes to find a way to secure this service for interested long-term care facilities, congregate living sites, and community members in Evanston to combat social isolation.

3. Commission members and any other interested party will be receiving a copy of the inaugural edition of the City’s Brain Break Activity packet, developed by members of the Seniors Working Group and funded by the Evanston Community
Foundation. Anyone who would like to receive a packet can register by calling 311, and they can select a hard copy or emailed version once per month. The packets also include information on local activities and resources, as well as a TV guide for the Senior Brain Break programs airing on Fridays at 8am, noon, and 5pm on public access television.

4. The Aging Well Conference Committee will meet next week for the first time since March, to discuss next steps for the Conference.

5. The Levy Senior Center will be closed through August, and the Civic Center has been running on reduced staff as many employees continue to work remotely. There is no firm consensus on when operations will continue in full.

6. Older adults and those who are at increased risk of COVID-related complications are encouraged to stay in whenever possible, and maintain social distancing and mask protocols when outside.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
No Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS
No New Business.

COMMUNICATIONS
1. Chair Factor will send COA members information on upcoming virtual conferences such as that of the Alzheimer’s Association, as well as North Shore Senior Center’s free Zoom event on July 8th at 3:30pm regarding historical construction of race in the United States.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting ended at 4:25pm, though no motions were made or carried due to lack of quorum.

Respectfully submitted,
Callie Sadler, Senior Services Advocate