



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
October 24, 2016

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Reg Avery
Angie Boyter
Peter Brunner
Barbara Catlin
Debbie Fleischmann
Jan Horan
Bob McLaughlin
Andrew Monjan
Eletta Morse
S.K. Shin
Michael Willis

Not Present

Susan Hailman
Julia Mattis
Andre Lingham

Office on Aging and Independence

Starr Sowers

Guests

Mike Davis

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Approve Agenda

Bob McLaughlin moved to accept the agenda, and Pete Brunner seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

Approve Minutes

Bob McLaughlin moved to accept the amended minutes of the previous meeting, and Debbie Fleischmann seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

Presentation by Mike Davis on Powers of Attorney

Mike Davis, an attorney with Davis, Agnor, Rapaport, & Skalny provided the Commission with an overview of financial and health care powers of attorney. Both types of powers of attorney are used to act in the principle's best interest and decisions should reflect those the principle would make themselves. Mike also discussed the legislation which supports the use of Powers of Attorney in Maryland. Attached is an estate planning handout from Davis, Agnor, Rapaport, & Skalny which provides more detailed information.

Chair's Report

Sharonlee Vogel reported that the Legislative Breakfast was a great success. All the legislators who attended shared positive comments.

Please remember to RSVP for the 12/3 social at Sharonlee's house.

The Local Health Improvement Coalition's (LHIC) Healthy Aging Workgroup is looking to increase awareness of aging issues by holding seminars four times per year. The first would focus on the healthy living and planning activities for after retirement. Seminars would be held on Saturdays to increase attendance. More information will be forthcoming.

Homestead Tax Credit

Following discussion at the Legislative Breakfast, Pete Brunner presented a proposal to make the Homestead Tax Credit transferrable so that someone wishing to downsize or relocate within the county could still take advantage of the credit. Bob McLaughlin and Michael Willis motioned to expand the work already begun on this proposal and bring more information to a future meeting. Pete Brunner will continue to work on this effort; Angie Boyter and Jennifer Asher both offered assistance.

Committee Reports

Caregiving

The Caregiving Committee met in September and identified three areas of focus.

1. Support OOA's work with the hospital to improve the quality of discharges through patient and caregiver education.
2. Meet with the Parish Nurses Program to identify new caregivers.
3. Potentially complete a caregiver survey at EXPO.

Government Relations

The Committee is looking forward to Clive Graham's presentation at the next COA meeting.

Health and Wellness

Andrew Monjan reported back on the meeting of the Health and Wellness committee. The committee had the following recommendations:

1. OOA publicize the locations and dates of county farmers markets.
2. OOA publicize the Roving Radish.
3. OOA generate a flyer that would remind people to have a yearly medication review to help ensure they aren't taking medications they no longer need.
4. Increase outreach efforts to let people know what resources are available to them.

Budget and Policy

Pete Brunner and Angie Boyter met with staff from the Office on Aging and Independence and Department of Community Resources and Services to better understand the budget process. The Department's budget is due to the Budget Office on December 23 and guidance for this year has been to prepare a maintenance budget. Typically, 80-85% of the Office's budget is consumed by salary costs. The actual amount of discretionary

spending in the budget is very small, perhaps 5%. The committee recommends that for this budget cycle that the Commission identify a new initiative for proposed inclusion in the Office's budget.

Housing and Aging in Place

No report.

50+EXPO

Andrew shared the booth schedule for the 50+ EXPO. At the table, the COA will have updated brochures, magnets, MAP Info cards, information on the name changes in the Department of Community Resources and Services, as well as information on the Livable Homes Tax Credit.

Howard County Police Department

No Report.

Office on Aging Report

The Department of Community Resources and Services will have a new director, Steve Bullock, who starts November 1.

The Senior Center Plus Program has been renamed the Connections Social Day Program.

The Office coordinated a meeting between the Departments of Finance and Inspections, Licenses, & Permits to discuss the proposed changes to the Livable Homes Tax Credit. A meeting with County Administration has been scheduled to discuss the recommendations.

Senior Issues Heard (Sharing from Commissioners)

Angie visited the Ellicott City 50+ Center and was impressed by the discussion group on current events.

Pete shared that The Village in Howard has moved into the neighborhood center at Stevens Forest and hired an office manager. At their annual meeting, the Village discussed creating a Circle of Care to help members as they came home from the hospital. While still in the planning stages, services could include dog walking, grocery shopping and rides to rehab/PT.

Jennifer felt the Legislative Breakfast was successful and wanted to be sure that we bring up tax credits for seniors again next year.

Bob will bring information to the next Commission meeting on the National Center for Aging and Disabilities new grant program.

Debbie supported Jennifer's statements about decreasing the tax burden for older adults and suggested considering police/fire/federal pensioners as well.

Sharonlee reported that the MD COA had a successful summit that was attended by Andrew, Pete and Angie who all volunteered at the event. MD COA is waiting for handouts from presenters and if they are able to be shared, Sharonlee will send out.

Andrew provided the COA with information on the November 12 Healthy and Sustainable Communities for Howard County public forum to be held at Howard Community College.

Michael visited the North Laurel 50+ Center had registered to become a member. He also attended the Willing Endowment lecture at Howard Community College.

Eletta reported that a friend was approached by scam artists claiming to offer low cost dent removal at both the Dobbin Target and Gateway Overlook shopping centers.

Barbara shared that she will be attending the American Public Health meeting in Denver.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Angie Boyter motioned to adjourn. Barbara Catlin seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: November 28, Ellicott City 50+ Center, 7pm