



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
June 27, 2016

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Reg Avery
Angie Boyter
Pete Brunner
Barbara Catlin
Susan Hailman
Julia Mattis
Bob McLaughlin
Andrew Monjan
Eletta Morse
SK Shin
Michael Willis

Not Present

Debbie Fleischmann
Jan Horan

Office on Aging

Starr Sowers
Ofelia Ott

Howard County Police Department

Andre Lingham

Call to order

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

Approve Agenda

Sharonlee Vogel requested that we delete the CA SAC update from the agenda. Bob McLaughlin moved to accept the amended agenda, and Barbara Catlin seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

Approve Minutes

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

The Willging Endowment

Ron Carlson presented the Commission with background information on the Willging Endowment, an endowment created to further Dr. Paul Willging's commitment to serve the long term care needs of seniors in Howard County. In partnership with Howard County Community College, the Endowment sponsors both a Speaker Series and an annual scholarship. The Endowment is dedicated to enhancing community learning about seniors and strives to bring recognition to age-related issues. Additionally, the Endowment has also created an internship program with Lorien Health Systems.

The Endowment would like the Commission on Aging to consider endorsing their work, allowing the Endowment to use the Commission's logo on marketing materials, and would like to be able to reach out to the Commission for advice or suggestions on programing.

The COA will consider the request and be in touch with the Endowment regarding a decision.

Howard County Police Department Report

Andre Lingham shared that the crime rate in the county remains level. One of the biggest crimes touching the older adult population is sweepstakes scams; the department will be issuing a press release with helpful tips on the topic.

Andre also shared copies of the newly released Elder Abuse Prevention Guide.

The Police Department will begin working on a five year plan; a consultant will be hired to examine current services and how well they meet community need. Andre will share any opportunities for input from Commission members.

The Loan Closet

Ofelia Ott shared details on the newly remodeled Loan Closet, a program which allows Howard County residents to donate or borrow durable medical equipment. The Loan Closet is located in Long Reach Village Center and held their ribbon cutting on June 15. This new space is five times the size of the program's previous space. Office hours have also been extended; the Loan Closet is open Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays from 9am to 4pm, more than double the number of hours they used to be open. The new space will also allow for donations of larger equipment like motorized wheel chairs and stair glides.

While the Office on Aging staffs the Loan Closet, the project is a partnership between the Office, the Rotary Club of Howard County, the Way Station, and Rebuilding Together.

Office on Aging Report

Department of Citizen Services Name Changes

Effective July 1, 2016, the Department of Citizen Services will begin using the new department and office names recommended in approved legislation.

Easier for people to find services and be connected to other programs

- Department of Citizen Services becomes **Department of Community Resources and Services**
- Office on Aging becomes **Office on Aging and Independence**
- Office of Consumer Affairs becomes **Office of Consumer Protection**
- Office of Children's Services becomes **Office of Children and Families**

The Department of Community Resources and Services will also incorporate the following new offices to provide expanded outreach and streamline operations:

- Office of Veterans and Military Families
- Office of Community Partnerships

- Office of Local Children's Board
- Office of ADA Coordination

Also on July 1, MAP will begin using a new, easier to remember number. MAP will be accessible by calling 410-313-1234. Be assured that the current MAP number will also still work.

Starr Sowers shared that the Office will receive a capital grant from the state for renovations to the Elkridge 50+ Center.

EXPO Update

New this year, the EXPO will ask for a \$5 donation for Capitol Steps tickets. All donations will benefit the Vivian Reid Fund.

AARP will provide a featured speaker who will focus on technology.

Chair's Report

Sharonlee shared the trends identified at the retreat earlier this month. If you have additions, please email them directly to Sharonlee.

Sue Song, a representative from the Korean American Senior Association will be presenting at the COA's July meeting.

A nominating committee will be formed to suggest candidates for chair/vice chair. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Sharonlee.

Committee Reports

Health and Wellness:

The Health and Wellness committee felt their major role would be in education on programs available. They will begin by putting together handouts from available programs and publications to help educate the public at places like the 50+ EXPO.

Housing:

No report

Caregiving:

The Caregiving committee is working on identifying key issues like how to identify caregivers, beyond self-reporting.

Government Affairs:

The Government Affairs Committee will be meeting next month and will begin working on the agenda for the Legislative Breakfast. They will also examine issues we know need attention, like transportation.

Budget & Policy:

The Budget & Policy Committee felt their primary purpose was to support efforts by the OOA to acquire additional resources using budget analysis and testimony to the County Council. The Committee will look to compare Howard County's budget for seniors/senior programming to those in surrounding jurisdictions as well as looking at discretionary grants, how the master plan will impact current operations, and how the COA can advocate for additional county resources for senior needs.

50+ EXPO

Andrew Monjan is looking for volunteers to work on the Commission's booth for the 50+ EXPO. If interested, Commissioners should contact Andrew directly as he will be setting up a meeting next month to start work on the booth and to revise the COA brochure handout.

Senior Issues Heard (Sharing from Commissioners)

Angie Boyter shared her experience investigating the Livable Homes Tax Credit. While supportive of the credit, Angie found the list of items covered to be restrictive. She has begun talking about the credit with Jon Weinstein, her County Council representative about broadening the credit and revising the permit requirements. If you have comments you'd like her to pass along, please email her directly.

Susan Hailman reported that the Village in Howard will be holding a book fair at the Barnes and Noble in Ellicott City from August 21-27. Email Susan for the flier.

Barbara Catlin is developing a class for caregivers who have lost a loved one that will focus on grief, transition, and what's next.

Andrew Monjan shared findings from an article on cognitive improvement for those with Alzheimer's disease and the benefits of a multi-system approach to treatment.

Andre Lingham reminded the Commission that he's available for community presentations.

Michael Willis attended the Office's Volunteer Appreciation event and had the opportunity to take a tour of the North Laurel 50+ Center with staff. He also attended the ribbon cutting at the Loan Closet and the MD Cultural Change Seminar.

Jennifer Asher shared that Western Howard County seniors would like a pool to be available for their use; the only pools in that part of the county are privately owned, either local swim clubs or country clubs, and no indoor swimming facilities exist at all.

Bob McLaughlin reported that the RTA is expanding bus stops; while this is good, there is still much work to be done on the transportation front.

Jan Horan reported that she had visited both East Columbia 50+ Center and a local assisted living facility.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Michael Willis motioned to adjourn. Pete Brunner seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: July 25, Ellicott City 50+ Center, 7pm