



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes

March 26, 2018

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Angie Boyter
Pete Brunner
Deborah Fleischmann
Susan Hailman
Jan Horan
Julia Mattis
Bob McLaughlin
Andrew Monjan
Eletta Morse
Sue Song
Michael Willis

Excused

Jennifer Asher
Reg Avery

Absent

Barbara Catlin

Office on Aging and Independence

Terri Hansen

Howard County Police Department

Andre Lingham

Call to order

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

Approve Agenda

Bob McLaughlin motioned to approve the agenda and Andrew Monjan seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

Approve Minutes

Bob McLaughlin motioned to approve the minutes, and Michael Willis seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

Workgroup Reports

Transportation

Bob McLaughlin reported on the first meeting of the transportation workgroup and provided an overview of the Central Maryland Transit & Development Plan. The plan looks to improve service reliability, increase frequency of service, expand week-end service, develop new local services across central Maryland, and develop an on-demand call and ride service. The plan will be implemented in four distinct phases: improvement of existing services, implementation of new services (like call and ride), new route connections, continued expanded connections.

The workgroup also evaluated the goals from the retreat and recommended that the goal regarding a white paper on the proposed Uber/Lyft pilot be changed to a white paper on the best options to address the issue of on-demand transportation.

Aging in the Community/Healthy Aging

Andrew Monjan reported that the workgroup is scheduled to meet on 4/2/18. The group will begin discussions by reviewing minutes and discussion from the retreat and will work to decide on a product/deliverable at their meeting.

Communications/Outreach

Jan Horan reported on the workgroup's first meeting. The workgroup would like to see a focus on more county-wide communication and inclusion of entities like the Howard County Library and Howard County General Hospital, not just County Government. The group also feels there is more need for interaction where seniors gather, for example in the faith community or senior housing. The workgroup would also like to see a more intergenerational approach to programming. At their next meeting, the group will focus on breaking these objective areas into achievable goals.

Senior Tax Issues

Pete Brunner reported that the group will be focusing on Senate Bill 427 (SB427) and is currently trying to get an update on the bill's status. According to the website, a hearing was set for 3/20/18 but no update was provided. Should the bill pass, the workgroup would like to work with the County's Department of Finance to understand how the bill would impact county revenue. Additionally, the workgroup plans education at the County level with both County Administration and the County Council if the bill passes. Pete will be reaching out to the delegation to find out the status of this bill.

Office on Aging Report

The office move is planned for early July. Our new address will be 9830 Patuxent Wood Drive, Columbia, MD.

Terri Hansen shared information on the Age Friendly Communities training in Northern Virginia for this week.

Senior Issues Heard

Andrew Monjan shared that the LHIC's Healthy Aging Workgroup is considering a proposal to host an event this year on either dementia or falls. This could be a potential sponsorship/co-sponsorship opportunity for the Commission.

Bob McLaughlin suggested the Commission look at holding a candidate forum as a way to familiarize ourselves with all the new candidates running for office this election year. The Commission was also open to partnering with another organization's forum.

Michael Willis will be attending trainings on both Emergency Preparedness and the new CMS survey process. Michael has also been scanning the Howard County Times and Baltimore Sun for information on activities for older adults; other than routine mentions of blood pressure checks and mahjongg games very little information is present.

Eletta Morse shared information about the AARP Home Sweet Future Home exhibit at the National Building Museum. She also recounted the story of a neighbor who received poor service from the County's Department of Finance while she attempted to get questions on her tax credit application answered.

Susan Hailman reported that The Village in Howard partnered with the Office on Aging to offer a seminar on hypertension and has scheduled a presentation from the Loan Closet for village members.

Sue Song shared that the Horizon Foundation's SpeakEasy program is partnering with the Korean community to facilitate the selection of health care agents. While the partnership is going well, they have noted that frequently more than one contact is needed to choose the health care agent.

Angie Boyter attended the latest COGS Happy Hour event. She also used Uber for the first time and found that it was convenient but pricey due to surge pricing when she was returning from her destination. Angie also shared an issue with Medicare and their frequent delays in providing service.

Jan Horan attended Irish day at the Glenwood 50+ Center and enjoyed the entertainment and activities provided. She also provided a warning that Microsoft phone scams are still occurring regularly.

Adjournment

Sue Song motioned to adjourn. Bob McLaughlin seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennie Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: April 23, 2018, Ellicott City 50+ Center, 7pm