



## COMMISSION ON AGING

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### COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes

October 22, 2018

**PRESIDING:** Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

#### **Members Attending**

Jennifer Asher  
Reg Avery  
Angie Boyter  
Pete Brunner  
Susan Hailman  
Jan Horan  
Julia Mattis  
Bob McLaughlin  
Andrew Monjan  
Sue Song  
Mark Stinson  
Michael Willis

#### **Excused**

Deb Fleischmann  
Eletta Morse

#### **Office on Aging and Independence**

Terri Hansen

#### **Call to order**

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

#### **Approve Agenda**

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

#### **Approve Minutes**

Reg Avery motioned to approve the minutes and Pete Brunner seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

## **Legislative Breakfast**

Sharonlee Vogel began by reminding the Commission that the Legislative Breakfast will take place on 11/13 at the Office on Aging's new building at 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia. A save-the-date has been sent to the current delegation and there's been one RSVP so far. Following the election, an invite letter with potential topics will go out to the delegation and those newly elected.

The Commission agreed that the biggest topic to be addressed at the breakfast would be tax issues and advocating for enabling legislation to lower the residency threshold for the Aging in Place Tax Credit and to add portability within the county for both the Aging in Place Tax Credit and the Homestead Tax Credit. Other topics will be end of life bills, transportation, and strategic planning to systemically address the changing older adult demographic.

A draft of the topic/invitation letter will be sent to all Commissioners.

## **Workgroup Reports**

### **50+ EXPO**

Jennifer Asher began the EXPO report by thanking everyone for staffing the Commission's booth at EXPO. The booth experienced consistent traffic between 10am and 3pm. Participants seemed to be most interested in the tax credit information, but were also interested in living well programs like those offered at Robinson Nature Center and the Roving Radish program.

### **Transportation**

Bob McLaughlin reported that Alan Kittleman held a news conference to talk about public transportation and transportation improvements, an area of focus for this administration. The goal for public transportation is to make a reliable and convenient system; to this end there is a plan to repair 50 bus stops this year and funding for innovation ideas has been set aside in the FY19 budget.

### **Promoting Aging in the Community and Healthy Aging**

Andrew Monjan reported that while at Expo members of the workgroup had a conversation with Ruth Coleman of the Department of Recreation and Parks about potential areas of collaboration. A meeting will be set to learn more.

### **Communications/Outreach**

While the workgroup didn't meet this month, they are working on talking points for the upcoming meeting with DTCS and the county's Public Information Office. The workgroup will also have recommendations for some current communications/publications; some flyers and other publications could incorporate simple language changes which could make programming sound more appealing.

### **Senior Tax Issues**

The Commission's support of enabling legislation to lower the residency threshold of the Aging in Place Tax Credit and to add portability, within one county, to both the Aging in Place Tax Credit and the Livable Homes Tax Credit will be the primary topic for the Legislative Breakfast next month.

### **Chair's Report**

Sharonlee reported that the Maryland Commission on Aging will not be holding a networking/educational event for local commissions. She proposed an idea that Howard County host an educational meeting of statewide Commissions on Aging, potentially to focus on the topic areas from the legislative breakfast. Commissioners were interested in moving forward with this meeting.

### **Office on Aging Report**

Terri Hansen shared that this year's 50+ EXPO was a success with between 1800 and 1900 attendees. Initial surveys from both vendors and participants indicate positive feedback.

Terri also shared information about the 50+ Futures Planning series which launched at the 50+EXPO and is a partnership between the Office on Aging and Independence and COGs, the Coalition of Geriatric Services. The flyer for the full series will be emailed to commissioners to share with their networks.

Terri also shared that the Department expects to make an announcement regarding a new administrator for the Office on Aging very soon.

### **New Business**

None

### **Sharing from Commissioners**

Sue Song shared an unfortunate story regarding the challenges to support a non-English speaking acquaintance during a domestic abuse report to the police.

Susan Hailman offered to share some articles with the Commission on the importance of intergenerational programming and the benefits of interactions with older adults.

Julia Mattis shared concerns on affordable housing in the county and the disturbing trend of house-sharing without a formal lease.

Michael Willis reported that he was a guest speaker in an Introduction to Aging class at UMBC.

Jennifer Asher shared that she had received positive feedback on the Cycle2Health program from a participant.

Angie Boyter also expressed support for intergenerational activities and encouraged general programs to think more about appealing to older adults; for example, could the Roving Radish offer a package with smaller portions?

Mark Stinson was encouraged by the number of 50+ EXPO attendees who were familiar with future planning concepts.

Pete Brunner shared that The Village in Howard is participating in the LHIC's Healthy Aging Initiative and offering presentations on SpeakEasy. The Village is also presenting a program on the use of automation in the home. Pete also shared that he's heard feedback about inspectors not being familiar with the Livable Homes Tax Credit and not understanding why some inspections are being done.

Reg Avery reported that Sharonlee presented to the Long Reach Village Board about the Commission on Aging and suggested the presentation be repeated for other village board to further a fuller understanding of the Commission and its goals.

### **Adjournment**

Sue Song motioned to adjourn. Reg Avery seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennie Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: November 26, 2018, Ellicott City 50+ Center, 7pm