



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes

February 26, 2018

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Angie Boyter
Pete Brunner
Deborah Fleischmann
Susan Hailman
Jan Horan
Bob McLaughlin
Andrew Monjan
Michael Willis

Excused

Reg Avery
Barbara Catlin
Eletta Morse

Absent

Julia Mattis
Sue Song

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

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

Sharonlee Vogel started the meeting with an announcement that Barbara Catlin's term will be coming to an end on April 30, 2018. If you have suggestions for the vacancy, please let Sharonlee know.

The meeting focused on setting goals for the Commission in four major areas: transportation, aging in the community/healthy aging, communications and senior tax issues.

Transportation

Bob McLaughlin facilitated the discussion around transportation goals and provided background from meetings of the Transportation Planning and Advisory Group. The Commission discussed the County's goal to create more accessible bus stops/routes as well as the issues around funding improvements. Following discussion about the County's master plans for transportation, the Commission identified the following goals related to transportation:

- Continue involvement with the Transportation Planning and Advisory Group.
- Advocate for more on-demand, user-friendly transportation options.
- Create a white paper on the proposed Lyft/Uber pilot program.
- Increase awareness of potential for driverless cars in Maryland. (Investigative goal)

Aging in the Community/Healthy Aging

Andrew Monjan facilitated discussions around aging in the community and healthy aging. The Commission was in favor of changing language it uses from aging in place to the more inclusive aging in community. The large question for this area of focus is around how to effectively disseminate information in the community; this workgroup will need to work closely with the communications/outreach group.

Goals for Aging in the Community/Health Aging:

- Host listening sessions; go to where people are in the community.
- Focus on intergenerational programming (potential for nature walks for seniors/mixed ages)
- Explore co-sponsoring an intergenerational event and by partnering with the public-school system.
- Help connect seniors with volunteer opportunities.
- Explore partnering with the Office on Aging to assist in the Dementia Friendly Communities or Age Friendly Communities Certification.

Communications/Outreach

The Commission began the communications/outreach discussion by discussing the County's website and the need for a high-contrast, jargon free site that features navigation by topic not department. The Commission also recommended more collaboration between County departments.

Goals for Communications/Outreach

- Educate local political candidates on older adults.
- Advocate for more coverage of senior activities in local papers.
- Hold listening sessions and information sessions on a variety of topics.

Senior Tax Issues

Pete Brunner began discussions by sharing that Senator Gail Bates reintroduced SB427 which lowered the residency threshold for the Aging in Place Tax Credit from 40 years in the same residence to 25 years in the county. The bill passed the Senate and has been sent to the House Ways & Means Committee.

Goals for Senior Tax Issues

- Advocate for increasing tax credits to allow residents to stay in Howard County.
- Assure the Commission is an essential part of the Office on Aging budget formation process.

Following discussions on each topic area, Angie Boyter motioned that the Commission reorganize its structure to create workgroups around each topic area. Pete Brunner seconded the motion. Motion was approved; all were in favor.

Adjournment

Debbie Fleischmann motioned to adjourn. Pete Brunner seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennie Rittenhouse

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