



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
November 28, 2016

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Angie Boyter
Peter Brunner
Debbie Fleischmann
Susan Hailman
Julia Mattis
Bob McLaughlin
Andrew Monjan
Eletta Morse
S.K. Shin
Michael Willis

Not Present

Reginald Avery
Barbara Catlin
Jan Horan

Office on Aging and Independence

Terri Hansen

Department of Community Resources and Services

Steve Bullock

Howard County Police Department

Andre Lingham

Guests

Clive Graham
Mark Pritchett

Call to order

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

Approve Agenda

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

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

The meeting began with the introduction and welcome for Steve Bullock, the new Director for the Department of Community Resources and Services.

Presentation by Clive Graham, Office of Transportation

Clive Graham, Howard County Office of Transportation, presented on the Transit Development Plan. The Office is collecting input via three surveys, a community survey (non-riders), a rider survey, and a paratransit survey. Planning is being done with Anne Arundel County as RTA is a regional system which makes more than 1.5 million trips annually (FY15 statistic) although Howard County comprises 70% of RTA trips. The Office of Transportation acknowledges that the RTA is a system of last resort for most riders and that routes need to be planned smarter.

The Office of Transportation faces significant challenges with the transportation system. Currently the fleet is a major challenge as nearly ½ of the vehicles are too old. Replacing the fleet is desirable but not fiscally possible; the process to attain 7 new buses has been started, but more than 20 are needed. Another challenge is the aging population of Howard County. Currently paratransit services comprise more than 25% of the Office's budget. As the population ages, demand for the most expensive services (i.e., paratransit) could increase to an unsustainable level.

Following his presentation, Clive addressed questions from the Commission, including questions about the viability of the HoCo Senior Ride proposal, timeline for changes to services, service area, potential funding sources, and customer satisfaction.

Committee Reports

Caregiving

No report.

Government Relations

Bob McLaughlin reported that he attended the 10/27 public hearing on transportation. The hearing was attended by a wide range of ages and complaints were consistent across the age range.

Health and Wellness

No report.

Budget and Policy

Pete Brunner requested that any suggested revisions to the letter about the Homestead Tax Credit be emailed to him and Sharonlee by 12/1/16.

Pete also shared additional information about the suggested revisions to the Senior Tax Credit and the Aging in Place Tax Credit, even though the county is liberalizing the requirements for the AIP credit there will still be only 138 homes eligible.

Aging in the Community

No report.

50+EXPO

Andrew Monjan thanked the Commissioners who volunteered to staff the booth at EXPO. There was a great crowd this year. Andrew tabulated the board with areas of concern and aging in place and taxes were the top concerns, with transportation coming in third.

Howard County Police Department

Andre Lingham reported that crime levels are consistent with last year. Andre also provided a warning for drivers of Honda Accords; a rash of airbag thefts is happening with the make/model.

Andre is working on a pilot program to offer all officers 8 hours of training on elder abuse.

Chair's Report

Sharonlee shared that the new issue of *Money* magazine has an interesting article on CCRCs.

Reminder there is no December meeting; the next COA meeting is January 23 and NeighborRide will be presenting on their service. Sharonlee is also working to schedule a presentation from The Village in Howard.

Senior Issues Heard (Sharing from Commissioners)

Eletta Morse again shared her concern about the lack of handicapped parking in the county.

Susan Hailmain reported that The Village in Howard is finding resources for snow shoveling. They'll be contacting people who they had on their list last year, but acknowledge it's hard to find vendors.

Jennifer Asher found EXPO to be an impressive, well run event with great information available at both the seminars and booths. She also suggested that the Office consider planning for the future as a theme for next year's event. Possible topics could include financial planning, estate planning, aging in place, health needs, and living wills or advanced directives.

Angie Boyter shared that her insurance provides both caregiver support programs and 6 hours of care management services. She's also reading a book on how to plan and pay for long term care.

Pete Brunner reported that The Village in Howard will not be applying for CSP funds for the upcoming year as the deadline for applications moved to 1/2/17 and they would have applied for a one-time disbursement of funds which are not guaranteed to be available.

Julia Mattis shared her concerns about affordable housing after the death of an advocate, Tom Carbo of the Howard County Housing Commission.

Andrew Monjan shared that the LHIC's Healthy Aging Work Group is preparing a white paper on healthy aging; he will share the paper when it is complete. Andrew also shared information from a paper from the Population Reference Bureau.

Michael Willis suggested STDs as a potential topic of concern for older adults as the discussion at the 50+ EXPO indicated.

MDCOA Report

Sharonlee shared that the MDCOA has a new chair, Rose Lee from Montgomery County. The MDCOA is moving away from annual conferences and is considering a biannual model instead.

CA SAC Report

At the last meeting, the CA SAC received a presentation from the Volunteer Center serving Howard County. They also looked at the Downton Columbia Plan. The 50th anniversary of Columbia is next year.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Bob McLaughlin motioned to adjourn. Michael Willis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: January 23, 2017, Ellicott City 50+ Center, 7pm