



## COMMISSION ON AGING

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### COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes  
May 22, 2017

**PRESIDING:** Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

#### **Members Attending**

Jennifer Asher  
Reginald Avery  
Angie Boyter  
Peter Brunner  
Barbara Catlin  
Deborah Fleischmann  
Susan Hailman  
Bob McLaughlin  
Andrew Monjan  
Eletta Morse  
Michael Willis

#### **Excused**

Jan Horan  
Julia Mattis

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

Kathleen Swanson  
Terri Hansen

#### **Howard County Police Department**

Andre Lingham

#### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

#### **Approve Agenda**

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

#### **Approve Minutes for March 2017**

There was no quorum for a April meeting. In May 2017, Bob McLaughlin motioned to approve the Minutes of March, and Reg Avery seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

Clive Graham, Administrator of the County's Office of Transportation, provided the Commission with an update on the progress of the County's Transportation Development Plan. Currently, the Office has completed route reviews and public input gathering on both the fixed-route and paratransit systems. Public input indicated that current riders of the fixed route system are customers out of necessity, not choice.

Passengers indicated the following wants: reliable buses, more frequent buses, more punctual buses, Sunday service and increased Saturday service. Current riders indicated a 40% satisfaction rate while 70% indicated that services meet their needs. More than 1,200 surveys were completed for the fixed route system and 228 valid surveys were completed for the paratransit system. Overall responses indicated that paratransit customers were more satisfied than fixed route customers.

Currently, the Office of Transportation is working on recommendations for the fixed route system and will begin presenting those recommendations in June. Clive will return to see the Commission in September to provide another update.

Several commissioners offered suggestions to the Office of Transportation. Bob McLaughlin again suggested addressing transportation through public/private partnerships and creating on demand transportation services for older adults. Sharonlee Vogel suggested forming pilot partnerships with Uber and Lyft, a mobile device company for seniors, school age children, and some disabled customers to greatly reduce, by about half or more, the cost of providing ADA transportation. This will tie in the County Executive's stated goal of private/public partnerships. Pete Brunner suggested the Office look at how to appeal to those who are not currently using the system as well.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Caregiving**

The Caregiving Committee met and discussed ways to identify caregivers within the community. While the hospital already does a good job of this, the Committee plans to work with the faith community and at community events to help educate caregivers about the services available.

### **Government Relations**

The County Executive will be attending the July meeting of the Commission. Please send Bob and Sharonlee any questions or topics you'd like to have addressed.

The Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for October 11 at North Laurel 50+ Center from 7:30am-9am. Please send Bob any potential topics you'd like to see covered at the breakfast. The committee will work to edit the list by the end of the summer.

### **Health and Wellness**

The Committee has met twice since the last Commission meeting and has discussed the role of proper sleep as well as the LHIC's Healthy Aging Workgroup. The Healthy Aging Workgroup is working on a strategic plan for 2018-2020 and is focusing on reducing Alzheimer's and dementia related hospitalizations in African Americans as well as reducing fall related deaths among Caucasians. These areas were picked as current data shows Howard County General Hospital is not meeting goals in these areas.

### **Budget and Policy**

Pete Brunner provided an update on SB601, which would permit counties to alter the residency requirement for the Aging Place tax credit from 40 years to 25 years in the home. While the bill passed the Maryland Senate, it did not pass in the House. Senator Bates has indicated a willingness to resubmit; Pete suggested the bill be a topic for the legislative breakfast.

Pete also suggested that the Department of Community Resources and Services educate themselves on how to better prepare budget responses. The County Executive's budget included six priorities with three strongly related to the DCRS, yet the Department did not relate its goals to the Executive's priorities.

### **Aging in the Community**

No report.

### **50+ EXPO**

Andrew Monjan shared that the Commission has reserved booth space at this year's 50+EXPO which will be held October 20. Andrew passed around a signup sheet to recruit additional committee members.

### **Police Department**

Andre Lingham shared that the HCPD is still investigating a number of online romance scams. In two recent cases, the both victims have lost more than \$500,000.

### **Office on Aging Report**

Jennie Rittenhouse shared that Steven Bullock has resigned as Director of DCRS. Jackie Scott is the acting director.

Both the Office on Aging and Independence and DCRS are going to be moving this fall to a new location off of Patuxent Woods Road. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

The Office is partnering with the Maryland Insurance Administration to offer a presentation on Frauds and Scams Targeting Older Adults for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The presentation will be held at Miller Library on Thursday, June 15, from 10am to 1pm.

This year WomenFest had more than 600 attendees. The event featured more than 100 vendors and nine seminars.

Cycle2Health held their annual kickoff at the Ellicott City 50+ Center with more than 100 riders registered.

### **Chair's Report**

Sharonlee announced that the County Executive would be attending the COA's July meeting.

### **Senior Issues Heard (Sharing from Commissioners)**

Michael Willis suggested advanced planning as a topic for the COA booth at EXPO. This could include advanced directives, prepaid funerals, estate planning, etc.

Angie Boyter reported that the Office's Volunteer Appreciation event was well received and featured great music and food. She suggested the Office and each center make tax credits like the Aging in Place Tax Credit more of a feature; people at her table and the staff present didn't know about the credit.

Bob McLaughlin shared that pedestrian safety is another area of concern and that sidewalks aren't keeping pace with areas of population growth.

Pete Brunner reported that The Village in Howard is launching a supported membership program to make the Village's services more accessible to those with varying income levels.

Andrew Monjan shared thoughts on a *Washington Post* article on Japan's aging population and the problems they're facing providing care and a suitable workforce to care for a population with the longest lifespan in the world.

**New Business**

None.

**Adjournment**

Debbie Fleischmann motioned to adjourn. Pete Brunner seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennie Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: June 26, 2017, Ellicott City 50+ Center, 7pm