



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
April 25, 2016

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Angie Boyter
Pete Brunner
Barbara Catlin
Roxanne Farrar
Deborah Fleischmann
Susan Hailman
Julia Mattis
Bob McLaughlin
Eletta Morse
Carolyn Rimes
SK Shin
Michael Willis

Not Present

Jan Horan
Andrew Monjan

Office on Aging

Starr Sowers
Peggy Hoffman
Kathy Wehr

Call to order

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

Approve Agenda

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

Approve Minutes

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

The meeting began with thanks and appreciation of Roxanne Farrar and Carolyn Rimes for their dedicated service to the Commission.

Howard County Police Department Report

No update.

Howard County Caregiver Support Program

Peggy Hoffman and Kathy Wehr provided an overview on the Office on Aging's Caregiver Support Program which uses Older Americans Act funding to provide supports that assist family and informal caregivers to care for their loved ones at home for as long as possible. Five types of services are provided: information and referral to available services, assistance gaining access to services, individual counseling, respite care, and supplemental services (on a limited basis).

In the last fiscal year, the program serviced 27 individuals for respite care and 96 for supplemental services. Average spending per caregiver is \$500, and does not require a means test, in accordance with the Older Americans Act.

The Caregiver Support Program also offers a diverse range of education opportunities for caregivers, including quarterly education sessions, an annual conference, and regularly scheduled classes. Later this year, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, the Office's first evidence based program for caregivers will be presented.

Office on Aging Report

Starr began by expressing her gratitude to Roxanne and Carolyn for their years of service to the Commission.

Upcoming Events

Womenfest will be held this Saturday, April 30 at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center in Glenwood.
MGA Conference held June 9; Office on Aging will be exhibiting

Update on Erikson School Project

The Office will be meeting with the Erikson School and Columbia Association this week to review the scope of work.

Starr also shared the brochure for MGA's annual conference.

Chair's Report

Upcoming Events

4/28-State Commission on Insurance-hearing on Long Term Care Insurance at CCBC Center for the Arts
5/26-Carfit at NeighborRide headquarters
6:20-Elder Abuse Conference

Updates from Legislative Session

- MDOA's budget was approved
- Asset Recovery for Exploited Seniors passed. This allows the Attorney General to file civil suit to attempt to reclaim assets lost by exploited seniors.
- Senior Call Check did not pass; something to talk about with legislators this fall
- Consumer Protection: For door to door sales, those over 65 now have seven days to cancel a contract. (Prior to this it was 3 days for all consumers.)
- Senior Center Operating Funds: the definition of a distressed jurisdiction was changed to be more in line with the standard definition of distressed.
- Grant Program to Train Medical Aides to administer and monitor prescription medicines was granted.

CA SAC Update

Sharonlee reported that the SAC is hearing that seniors do not like the package options from Columbia Association. Many want to swim yet are not happy with having to sign up for a large package to have access. Sharonlee suggested contacting your Village Board Rep and letting them know that people want to have swim memberships that are not part of a larger package.

Senior Issues Heard (Sharing from Commissioners)

Jan Horan shared via email that she would be volunteering at Womenfest. She also visited the Glenwood 50+ Center and spoke with the assistant director. The center is holding its monthly waffle bar on May 20 and a book sale on June 22.

Bob McLaughlin recommended that Commissioners check out Montgomery County's Design for Life, a voluntary certification program to promote visit-ability and live-ability in single family homes.

Eletta Morse reported that she attended the HCCA Forum and that she is still hearing concerns about the number of handicapped parking spaces available in the county.

Pete Brunner shared that The Village in Howard received a grant from the Community Foundation of Howard County for strategic planning; the first session is this Friday.

Roxanne Farrar let the Commission know that her time on the Commission has helped her serve the senior population better while at work. She is currently programming for the fall and has been working to move classes out of the Gateway building and in to 50+ Centers as parking at Gateway has become such a challenge.

Julia Mattis shared a concern about the lack of affordable housing options in the county. As she works with potential buyers there are few options. Place like Miller's Grant are too expensive and yet builders seem to be focusing on single family homes.

Michael Willis reported that Life Span is holding a leadership council this month. He also expressed interest in hearing more about the grant Sharonlee mentioned for training medical aides.

Susah Hailman is working with The Village in Howard to offer The Other Talk, an Office on Aging program about an individual's wishes for care later in life. Marketing has proved to be a challenge.

Angie Boyter passed along a comment from a friend who would like to see more benches on walking paths in the County as well as wider pathways. She also shared that a local restaurant, T-Bonz in Ellicott City, has new menu items with smaller portions and music that isn't too loud for conversation. She'd like to see an initiative to educate businesses in how to make their locations more-senior-friendly, perhaps using good examples like this one.

Jennifer Asher also attended the HCCA Forum and found that while transportation seems to be a big issue, the larger issue is that much of the public is not aware of the services available within Howard County.

Barbara Catlin is offering a new Caregiver Circle beginning on May 12. While caregivers are often exhausted, most find the circles are worth the time.

Debbie Fleischmann reported that Howard County General Hospital is working to integrate patient education into the discharge process and safe transitions home continue to be an issue. They are launching a program on home medication which places pharmacy technicians in the emergency department to help understand and fill gaps in the full medication history of the patient, including home medications and over the counter options.

Carolyn Rimes shared that she discussed the 50+ Centers with two of her neighbors who have vision loss. They reported they love Glenwood, but haven't felt welcome at the Bain Center.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Bob McLaughlin motioned to adjourn. Carolyn Rimes seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Rittenhouse

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