



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes

January 28, 2019

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Angie Boyter
Peter Brunner
Susan Hailman
Jan Horan
Julia Mattis
Bob McLaughlin
Andrew Monjan
Eletta Morse
Sue Song

Excused

Reg Avery
Debbie Fleischmann
Mark Stinson
Michael Willis

Office on Aging and Independence

Jenna Crawley

Call to order

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

Approve Agenda

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

Approve Minutes

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

The meeting began with a training on the Opioid Crisis in Howard County and training on administering Narcan, provided by the Howard County Health Department.

Workgroup Reports

Transportation

Bob McLaughlin shared that Clive Graham had left the Office of Transportation and that Chris Etough was acting administrator of the Office.

Promoting Aging in the Community and Healthy Aging

Andrew Monjan shared that the workgroup continues to look for opportunities to partner with Recreation and Parks and the Columbia Association to provide intergenerational programs.

Eletta Morse provided the Commission with information on a respite program housed within the Department of Social Services.

Communications/Outreach

Jan Horan shared that the workgroup hasn't met since the last Commission meeting and is waiting to see if the new administration makes any changes to communications protocols within the County. One positive change is that the background blue color on the County's website has been changed to a darker blue color which offers more contrast. The workgroup will continue to advocate for open communications across county documents and for a culture that integrates older adults at all levels.

Angie Boyter again educated the Commission on the deficiencies in the state's MAP website. Jenna Crawley shared that the Maryland Department of Aging is looking at new data collection strategies and programs which may improve the site.

Senior Tax Issues

Pete Brunner updated the Commission on legislation related to reducing the residency threshold on the Aging in Place Tax Credit at the state level. Newly elected Maryland Senator Katie-Hester has expressed interest in reintroducing the legislation proposed by her predecessor Gail Bates. Pete shared that when Commission members met with Senator Hester she indicated constituents indicated they wanted to stay in Maryland but were being priced out. Pete attended the Howard County Delegation meeting and heard concern about the potential costs of the legislation.

Pete also provided an overview of Senate Bill 65 which looked to change the pension exclusion from \$29,000 to \$75,000 but also set a cap on retirement income of \$100,000. The reported cost of the bill was assessed to be over 350 million dollars, so it is not likely to pass.

COA Summit

Sharonlee reminded Commissioners that the Summit is set for September 17 at North Laurel 50+ Center. The workgroup met with AARP to see what programming they could offer the Commission. As decisions for programming are made, Sharonlee will keep Commissioners informed.

Chair's Report

Sharonlee let Commissioners know that she had emailed the link to the Transition Report that was presented the County Executive. If you have issues opening the document, let Sharonlee know and she will forward a copy to you. The report has interesting suggestions; unfortunately, there is no mention of on-demand transportation but the importance of ride sharing is noted.

Office on Aging Report

Jenna Crawley let the Commission know that DCRS assisted with providing food to furloughed federal workers and provided the community with 100 bags of groceries and 20 gift cards for groceries.

There is no current date available for the 50+ EXPO as the Office and Department are still considering format and location changes.

The Office just concluded a Futures Planning series in partnership with COGS (Coalition of Geriatric Services). The seven-session series focused on planning to age in place and was well received. The Office will be launching a new series in April targeting Howard County Government employees and will let the Commission know when the next public session will begin.

The Bain Center will be undergoing renovations to the staff/office spaces beginning over the summer.

The Loan Closet move is currently on hold.

SHIP Program Manager Barbara Albert retired in January.

New Business-None

Sharing from Commissioners

Jennifer Asher shared information from the Navigating Aging column in The Washington Post on the importance of consuming protein, especially when facing stress. The recommended amount for older adults is 10-15% over the RDA.

Pete Brunner introduced Jim Sanders from The Village in Howard who is working on assembling information related to home-sharing as well as looking at how Howard County zoning regulations work with home sharing.

Julia Mattis shared that realtors are finding rooms for rent being listed in the MLS which raises questions regarding how you enforce health and safety and evictions procedures.

Jan Horan attended the County Executive's Listening Session at the Glenwood 50+ Center. The attendees seemed to come from Western Howard County and the main concerns were about transportation and the roads not keeping up with development. Jan also shared that she is part of Project Talent, a long-term study following Howard High School graduates for 50+ years and now involved in a memory study with grant funds from the National Institute on Aging.

Sue Song shared that she facilitated a tour of Lorien facilities for commissioners and Jenna Crawley.

Susan Hailman reported that The Village in Howard had a presentation from the Maryland Office of Adaptive Technology which serves as a library for assistive devices. People can check out equipment for up to a month to see if it meets their needs.

Andrew Monjan shared that he is working with Transition Howard County to create "Incredible, Edible Landscaping" at the East Columbia Library.

Angie Boyter attended the Lorien tour Sue Song facilitated and learned about the Korean floor at Harmony Hall. Angie suggested controlling the cost of prescription drugs as a potential area for the Commission to explore.

Bob McLaughlin reminded that Commission that fares are waived for those over 60 on RTA fixed route buses.

Adjournment

Julia Mattis motioned to adjourn. Eletta Morse seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennie Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: February 25, 2019, Ellicott City 50+ Center, 7pm