



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes

February 25, 2019

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Angie Boyter
Peter Brunner
Susan Hailman
Julia Mattis
Bob McLaughlin
Eletta Morse
Sue Song
Michael Willis

Excused

Reg Avery
Jan Horan
Andrew Monjan
Mark Stinson

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 Michael Willis seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

Approve Minutes

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

Workgroup Reports

Transportation

Bob McLaughlin provided the Commission with an overview of the transportation recommendations in the Transition Report to the County Executive. The report focused on the need for a regional transportation strategy to include financial planning for improvements, a need for complete streets, and the need to imbed transportation planning in all county departments.

Promoting Aging in the Community and Healthy Aging

Eletta Morse shared that there would be a Repair Café at the Other Barn on March 2. She also shared information about OUR Bus, a low-cost alternative offering service from Columbia to New York City.

Communications/Outreach

Angie Boyter shared that Microsoft's Powerpoint has an accessibility checker and encouraged that use of the feature should become a standard operating procedure.

Senior Tax Issues

Pete Brunner reported that the work group continues to work with Senator Hester on property tax relief for seniors. Originally a bill to reduce the residency threshold of the Aging in Place Property Tax Credit was written that was Howard County specific, but it faced undefined pushback. A new strategy involved pulling back the county specific bill and submit a state-wide bill. A hearing on the state-wide bill was scheduled for February 20, but due to the inclement weather, it is unclear if the hearing occurred.

COA Summit

Sharonlee shared a draft of the save the date email and the agenda. While Age Friendly Communities are a theme of the summit, the focus will not be on AARP. The workgroup has requested the County Executive provide opening remarks. If anyone has suggestions for the summit, please let Sharonlee know.

Chair's Report

Sharonlee reported that Andrew Monjan's term on the Commission will be ending May 1. While he won't be a Commission member, Sharonlee has secured his participation in the upcoming COA summit.

Andre Lingham's role within the Police Department has changed and he has moved to Executive Protection; as such, he will no longer be attending Commission meetings.

Sharonlee suggested the Commission look at the domains for creating an age-friendly community and consider if it would make sense to restructure the workgroups based on the age-friendly community domains.

Office on Aging Report

Jenna Crawly reported that the Office has kicked off work on the new East Columbia 50+ Center project. The design process will take approximately 12 months and construction will take roughly 18 months. The new center will be the largest center in the county at more than 32,000 sq ft.

Bain renovations are scheduled to begin this summer; we are awaiting recommendations from the builder.

A level budget was submitted to the County Executive with no substantial changes. The Office's priorities remain the same with attention to capital projects like the Bain and East Columbia renovations as well as the Loan Closet move. The Commission expressed their dismay at not being involved in the budget process.

Jenna announced that Elkridge 50+ Center would be holding a first anniversary party on March 5 from 1-3pm.

New Business-None

Sharing from Commissioners

Michael Willis shared that he has been at his current facility for two years and shared that, in general, the environment is leading to high turnover in nursing home administrators.

Sue Song reported that KASA opened session today at the Bain Center with 92 people attending classes. They hope that with new member recruiting that they will have 180 members.

Pete Brunner shared that the Village in Howard is interested in housing and home shares and is looking at the zoning changes that would have to occur to make home sharing a viable option within the county.

Susan Hailman reported that an article in the Baltimore Sun highlighted a Colorado jurisdiction which was utilizing occupational therapists to make aging in place home visits, allowing residents to remain in their homes longer and more successfully.

Angie Boyter shared that the state has a Livable Homes Tax Credit, but they won't be evaluating applications until all taxes are filed. Angie reached out to her local delegates to share feedback on the issue, but has not heard more.

Jennifer Asher shared that she found the Opioid Awareness sign on Montgomery Road to be an effective tool for sharing the severity of the crisis within the county.

Adjournment

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

Recording Secretary: Jennie Rittenhouse

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