



**COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES
October 25, 2021**

PRESIDING: Reginald Avery, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Angie Boyter
Peter Brunner
Wei Gou
Susan Hailman
Victoria Hathaway
Eletta Morse
Sue Song
Mark Stinson
Michael Willis

Excused

Julie Mattis

Absent

Geetha Jayaram
Elizabeth Edsall Kromm

Office on Aging & Independence

Jenna Crawley
Donna Tugwell

Guests

Terri Hansen

Call to order

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

Approve Agenda

The Tax Committee memo was added to the agenda. There was a motion to approve agenda. The motion was seconded. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

Approve Minutes

Several edits were identified for the September minutes and done. Peter Brunner motioned to approve the minutes. Sue Song seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

Presentation on Age-Friendly Action Plan

- Terri Hansen gave a presentation on the Age-Friendly Action Plan for Howard County. The presentation was a preview of the action plan, which is pending final review. The action plan will guide the Age-Friendly Howard County initiative for the next three years from 2021 thru 2024. Once complete, the action plan will be sent to AARP to review and approve.
- There are eight domains of livability identified by The World Health Organization. Howard County is already doing some things to take the County toward increased livability. A vision and mission were identified. Work groups were created for each of the domains of livability. The steering committee reviewed the recommendations and actions items of the work groups to develop the action plan. Action items include some of the following areas of focus: mental health issues, intergenerational activities, and Senior Centers Without Walls. Evaluation and data collection will be an ongoing process. Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions.
- For Age-Friendly Howard County to be successful, it will need to be a community effort and ambassadors are going to be needed. The Commissioners can be ambassadors and help champion and participate in the Age-Friendly initiative. As ambassadors, Commissioners can:
1) Explain what Age-Friendly is about to people in the community, 2) Educate people in various areas and let them know what resources are available through the community for older adults, and 3) Complete Age-Friendly certifications for business to be certified as an Age-Friendly business. As a group, the Commission could pick one or two actions steps and be the lead for them and identify one or two other groups to work with.

Follow-up Discussion – How does the Commission wish to participate in the Age-Friendly Implementation going forward?

The Commissioners discussed 1) How to organize, 2) Objectives and goals, and 3) a committee to explore. At the next meeting it will be discussed further.

Office on Aging and Independence Report

- The robo calls about Covid-19 and Medicare cards were not a scam. The Maryland Department of Health has led an outreach initiative contacting individuals who attended mass vax sites.
- OAI is working on the annual NAPIS (National Aging Program Information System) report which is due November 15th to MDoA.
- OAI is actively hiring. Currently there are several positions posted. Also, there have been retirements and resignations. As a result, there are a number of vacancies. Commissioners were encouraged to contact the OAI Administrator in the event they were interested in receiving any of the job postings to share with their networks.
- The Beacon Virtual 50+ launches on November 1st and will run thru January 31st. One of the featured videos is of a conversation with Sue Song on how to partner with cultural communities.
- Medicare open enrollment is from October 15th thru December 7th.
- There will be a Thanksgiving Grab and Go meal on November 16th at the Ten Oaks Ballroom. Putting on the Ritz is the caterer. Pre-registration for the meals will be from November 2nd thru November 4th.
- November is National Caregivers month. There will be a webinar on November 30th, titled “Explaining the process, navigating resources and services to care for your loved one”.

Chair’s Report

- A thank you was expressed to the County Executive, Jackie Scott and the other special guests who attended the September meeting.

- There were fourteen applications for the open commissioner position. The committee reviewed the applications and selected four candidates. The recommendations were sent to the County Executive. The County Executive has made a selection and is waiting to hear back if they will accept the position.
- When to hold the upcoming November COA meeting was discussed. The meeting will be held on either on November 22nd or November 29th.

Tax Committee Memo

- Commissioners were asked to read the subcommittee report on taxes that was sent to them and give their comments by Thursday, November 4th. Peter Brunner will then create a memo and distribute it to the Commissioners. Commissioners will decide whether to send the memo as is, or if it needs to be modified. Voting can not be done by email, because this would violate the Open Meetings Act. Because of this, then Angie Boyter moved that the report be approved. Sue Song seconded the motion. It was discussed and decided that a letter with Reginald Avery's signature would be sent with the attachment and would give stock points and clarify the attachment details. Commissioners would be given the opportunity to review the letter before it is sent. After discussion, the motion was approved.

New Business

- Planning for future meeting guest speakers was discussed. It was decided that for the next few meetings there will be no guests. After having discussions on Age-Friendly, the Commission could narrow down what guests to have. It was suggested representatives from OAI present information on programs the OAI has. Another suggested guest speaker is someone from HCGH to talk about what they are doing to improve care for the aging in the County. Hank Greenberg, the State Director of AARP was also mentioned as a possible quest speaker.
- On Thursday, November 18th at the Bain 50+ Center there will be a Korean cooking demonstration. Registration for the demonstration must be by November 12th.

Adjournment

Sue Song motioned to adjourn. Jennifer Asher seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

Recording Secretary: Donna Tugwell

Future Meetings: November 29th, no December meeting