

**Age-Friendly Housing Workgroup Meeting
Minutes - January 31, 2020**

PRESIDING: Terri Hansen, Age-Friendly Coordinator

Members Attending

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Jeff Bronow | Sandra Ryan |
| Vanessa Hughes | Sharon Matthews |
| Patti Hutton | Julia Mattis |
| Evelyn Jackson | Barry Mehta |
| Alice L Lewis | Georgea Moore |
| Fran LoPresti | Peter Morgan |
| Joyce Nagel-Mortell | Jim Sanders |
| Rusty Toler | David Zeitzer |
| Manuel Evangelista | Meriann Ritacco |
| Dave Wanex | Angie Boyter |
| Hayden Reiter | Jessica Harris |
| Peter Brunner | Tina Morgan |

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:03am

Welcome & Purpose of Meeting

This was an initial meeting and was considered an “exploration” meeting. The meeting’s intention was 1) to have members get to know each other, 2) learn about the role of the Housing workgroup, and 3) to look ahead to what’s possible in the future.

Roles

- Coordinator
 - Terri Hansen is the Coordinator of the entire Age-Friendly Howard initiative.
 - She will attend as many workgroup meetings as she can
 - She will work collaboratively with the Steering Committee.
- Steering Committee
 - The Steering committee will be made of members from the government, non-profits, faith-based communities, chamber of commerce, library, Howard Community College, Howard County General Hospital
 - The Steering committee will receive all the action plans from each workgroup and will determine which actions will be included in the final action plan
- Workgroups
 - Members need to be committed and be an active member of the group
 - Each member of the workgroup (except for government staff) will need to register as a volunteer on the Howard County volunteer website, www.hocovolunteer.org
 - Each member will be responsible for logging in all their volunteer hours

- Co-Chairs
 - Each workgroup will have Co-Chairs
 - 1 must be government staff
 - 1 must be from the community
 - If interested in becoming a Co-Chair, submit answers to following questions to agefriendly@howardcountymd.gov by February 5th
 - Why do you want to serve as co-chair of the workgroup?
 - What previous community experience in a leadership role or experience on the topic make you a good candidate for co-chair?
 - Responsibility of the Co-Chairs
 - Keeping the workgroup on task
 - Developing agendas
 - Delivering the work of the workgroup at designated timeframes
 - Meeting quarterly with the Steering Committee

Age-Friendly Overview

Age-Friendly is a community effort and is not considered to be just the work of Howard County Government. It is a joint effort between the government, non-profits, businesses, and the community at large. There are 8 domains of Age-Friendly. Many domains overlap. The Age-Friendly initiative will allow workgroups to explore 1) where we are today, and 2) how we will look 5 years from now. The 8 domains are:

- **Social Participation** – Access to leisure and cultural activities; opportunities to socialize, engage and combat isolation
- **Community Support & Health Services** – Assistance and affordable care options for all ages
- **Work and Civic Engagement** – Opportunities for active community engagement, paid employment and meaningful volunteer options
- **Respect & Social Inclusion** – Programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as multigenerational interaction and dialogue
- **Transportation** – Sidewalks and safe, crossable streets for pedestrians; dedicated bicycle lanes; public and other transportation options
- **Outdoor Spaces & Buildings** – Availability of safe and accessible recreational facilities and accessible buildings
- **Communication & Information** – Information sharing through a variety of delivery methods, with respect for cultural and age-related differences
- **Housing** – Housing options to meet the needs of those with differing incomes, ages and life stages

Age-Friendly Process

Developing an Age-Friendly community is a 5-year plan

- **Years 1 & 2:** 1) Conduct a survey and listening sessions, and 2) develop, a comprehensive action plan
 - The action plan will identify benchmarks and will be able to measure success.
 - The action plan is to be submitted to the Steering Committee by the end of October 2020 and is to be completed by December 2020 in time for the 1-year anniversary of Age-Friendly Howard County on December 3, 2020.
- **Years 3-5:** Implementation
- **Year 5:** Progress/status update

Survey

A survey has been developed through the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence and is in its final stages. The purpose is to get feedback from the community. The survey will go live on February 3rd. The survey will be available online at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Community-Resources-and-Services/Office-on-Aging-and-Independence/Age-Friendly>

A paper copy of the survey will also be available at 50+Centers, libraries, county buildings, and other places throughout Howard County. The survey will be in four languages 1) Korean, 2) Hindi, 3) Mandarin Chinese, and 4) Spanish. The survey is geared toward the 50+ population, however all adults of any age are encouraged to complete it. The survey will be available until the end of February 2020. The survey will be analyzed, and the data will be available by the end of March 2020.

Discussion

- What are some of the main reasons for joining the Housing Workgroup:
 - Elderly friend/family member having trouble with their home
 - Looking to Retire in the near future
 - Assisted living homes and repairs
 - Cost of housing
 - When you retire you have a set income but rent keeps increasing (no cap)
 - Where do you want to retire if you cannot afford to stay in Howard County?
 - How do we do modifications and safety to age in place?
- The housing committee is currently in the process of updating the Master Plan
- New CCCRs “on the horizon”
- Survey
 - Is the survey currently online?
 - Is it being processed by a professional surveyor; no being processed in-house
 - Survey is inclusive for all 8 domains
 - If members have connections to other organizations to please reach out to them, letting them know about the survey and how to complete survey online or get a paper copy
 - Survey is being translated into four languages; Spanish, Korean, Chinese and Hindi
- How are the current laws going to be addressed, such as needing to build a ramp, but not being able to?
- Action plan
 - we need to come up with a realistic action plan for the group
 - outline in the plan what the goals and objectives are and whose responsibility it is to address them
 - how we measure what the outcome is going to be
 - extensive research
 - Columbia Association is very engaged and interested in all 8 domains
 - long-term process with a lot of considerations and advocacy
- There are some things that need to be handled at the state level, do we have something in process for that?
 - Howard County currently the 50th worst state for retirement, do to high housing costs
 - Everything is currently being handled at the local level
 - Focus is on the County and how to improve it
 - Baltimore has also launched Age-Friendly and there have been talks about how to partner to advocate on the state level
- How to get the information out to the entire county
 - We should think about inviting the County Council to join our work group, Getting on their schedule to meet with the entire council
- Volunteer Hours
 - Is it mandatory to enter hours, and is it vital that we be able to track the information?
 - Could be used to help with grant funding in the future
 - It’s very easy to track hours in the system
- Brainstorming 1 (speakers/speaker topics)
- Support
 - What kind of support is the County offering?

- Staff person to take minutes
- Is AARP providing help?
 - Technical assistance
- Steering Committee
 - There are no unaffiliated people on the committee
- What to do if one comes across something in their group that is for another group?
 - Minutes will be shared online with the entire group
 - Keep open lines of communication
 - Nothing specific in place yet, but will be worked on
 - Open meetings so anyone can come
- Will the group Co-Chairs be meeting together?
 - Co-chairs will be meeting quarterly with Terri Hansen
- Sub-groups will be formed based on the reasons on the sticky notes as to why everyone was attending the meeting

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am

Recording Secretary: Lisa Chaney