

City of Bloomington Commission on Aging
Meeting minutes: July 11, 2017
Hooker Room

1. As a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order by chair Lauren Cowan at 4:35. In attendance were Lauren Cowan, Julie Hill, Amy O'Brien, Courtney Steward, Jack Kahn, Denise Lessow, Gail Londergan and Phil Stafford, in addition to Liaison Sue Evans and guest Libby Dawson of Eldercare Connections.
Regrets were expressed regarding the resignation of Jim Shelton from the commission, followed by a broad expression of appreciation for his contributions.

Minutes of the June 13 meeting were reviewed. It was noted that the acronym DBI stands for Downtown Bloomington, Inc. and Amy O'Brien's name was misspelled. Minutes were approved following a motion by Jack Kahn and second by Gail Londergan.

2. Liaison report: Sue shared the budget balance, which is \$2,409.32.
3. Old Business:
 - a. Working Subcommittee Updates:
 - i. Creative Aging Initiative: Julie noted the committee is beginning to work on the identification of 4 events that can be developed in 2018. Events could be organized around other priorities of the COA, including dementia-friendly Bloomington and Seniors in Poverty. It is hoped something can be offered in January, perhaps in conjunction with and funded by the Martin Luther King Commission. Courtney Steward volunteered to contact South Central Community Action Program as potential partners. Amy O'Brien offered to assist Courtney and will attend the next committee meeting on July 25, noon, Dunlop conference room.
 - ii. Seniors in Poverty: No report, though Courtney pointed to the 2017 AARP Scorecard on Long Term Services and Supports, in which Indiana is dead last. <http://www.longtermscorecard.org/databystate/state?state=IN>
 - iii. Communications: No formal report. In an extended discussion, the group briefly reviewed screen shots of the new City web pages for COA. Several suggested changes were offered, including the addition of attachments and reports from the old site, statements about the standing committees, linkage to COA newsletter. Sue noted that the IT department is working to develop new policies and standards for the new site and that our changes should be able to be accommodated over time. Gail offered a motion, seconded by Courtney, passed by the Commission, that the Commission submit a formal request that all of the materials and features discussed be added to its webpages. She will follow up with Sue to submit this request.

- iv. Data: Committee Chair Londergan circulated a written report. She noted that the committee continues to work on goal statements and focus of the upcoming work, which we hope to complete by the end of the year. The committee will begin with a review of the City's recent community-wide survey, identifying age-related points of interest or, rather, survey questions for which responses seem to have been affected by respondent age. Gail is working on an initial outline to facilitate committee discussion regarding this.
- 4. New Business
 - a. Recognition of 10 Year Anniversary of the Active Aging Coalition: AAC was itself a catalyst for the creation of the Commission on Aging. Members are encouraged to attend a celebration to be held at Meadowood Retirement Community on July 20, noon. Commission members Julie Hill, Lauren Cowan, and Gail Londergan were former active steering committee members in the AAC. Gail provided a greeting card which was signed by Commission members.
 - b. Affordable Living Indicators and Recommendations: Lauren Cowan provided an update on the current draft of the Affordable Living committee indicators and recommendations. It was agreed that the COA needs to review and offer concrete suggestions for possible incorporation into the final report. Members are asked to closely review the current draft and attend an extended regular meeting of the Commission in August (4:30 – 6:30), with first hour devoted to regular business, followed by a discussion of the entire range of indicators/recommendations and the implications for older adults in the community. Julie noted the importance of incorporating attention to caregiving issues (not just child care) as a significant economic challenge in families and community.
 - c. Changing Aging Tour: The Commission discussed options for involvement and support of the upcoming Changing Aging Tour with Bill Thomas, MD., and a performance troupe in late September of 2017. Venue to be announced. The full requirement for financial sponsorship was seen as prohibitive, though there was discussed a donation at a lower level (e.g. \$500.00). Recruiting volunteers to assist the project was also noted as unrealistic, given the time frame. Several people plan to attend the event as audience members. It appears the leadership for sponsorship may be coming from the IU Health Alzheimer's Resource Center, insofar as dementia is an issue addressed in the full day event. Lauren Cowan volunteered to contact the advance man, Mike Bollender, to discuss the Commission's involvement.
 - d. Election of officers: Lauren Cowan moved and Gail Londergan seconded, the nomination of Denise Lessow as the upcoming chair of the Commission. Following, the call to close was offered by Jack Kahn and seconded by Julie Hill. Denise was elected by a unanimous vote of those present. She expressed her appreciation for Lauren's many contributions, echoed by the members of the Commission. There was no nomination for Secretary, so that position will remain unfilled. The duties will be rotated or taken on by a student volunteer in the new school year. Courtney Steward nominated Lauren Cowan for vice-chair. Gail Londergan nominated Phil Stafford. Lauren Cowan withdrew her acceptance of the nomination and Stafford was elected vice-chair by oral acclamation.

5. Additional Agenda Items:

- a. Presentation to Envisage: With Jim no longer available to present to the employee group next week, Courtney Stewart will contact the group to re-schedule as her calendar is full for the next two months. It was suggested the Commission might create a generic power point presentation that any member could use in responding to speaker requests.
- b. Health Equity: Gail presented information about the National Academy of Medicine project to solicit artistic renditions of the concept of health equity nationwide. It was noted this would be a good project for the Commission to support, encouraging the involvement of local artists. Gail volunteered to contact the BEAD director Sean Starowitz, to coordinate and Courtney volunteered Denise Lessow to author a letter to the editor in support of the project. Denise agreed.
- c. Upcoming Agenda Items: 1) The work around a local senior center and the role of the commission. 2) Facilitation of a plan for the coming year, noted by Denise Lessow. 3) Filling the new vacancy on the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm, following Lauren's expression of appreciation to Sue Owens, City Liaison, for all of her support and consultation.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip B. Stafford, Commissioner