

# City of Bloomington Commission on Aging

## Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2017

1. **Meeting** was called to order at 4:31 pm. In **Attendance** were Lauren Cowan, Julie Hill, Jack Kahn, Denise Lessow, Gail Londergan, Amy Elizabeth O'Brien (new commissioner), Phil Stafford, Courtney Stewart, and Liaison Sue Owens. Lei Gong has resigned from the commission to pursue other interests.

**Minutes:** The May 9, 2017 were approved (Jack 1<sup>st</sup>, Julie 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimous) after corrections were made and recorded by Sue.

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 reviewed the change to 4 planned public events in 2018 after a 2017 hiatus. Lauren and Sue are members, as was Lei.
- ii. **Seniors in Poverty:** Courtney explained that this new initiative has met twice; at the last session Kerry Conway presented. Their goal is to promote existing community resources. Lauren added comments about the Affordable Living Task Force, on which she and Phil serve. The Task Force is working to generate a report by the end of September that focuses on 6 domains: Food, Health Care, Housing, Transportation, Child Care, and Employment. She suggested that COA could weigh in on the 6 domains, and dovetail with the work of Seniors in Poverty. Gail suggested, and Lauren agreed, to email the indicators to the commissioners for review. Julie and Denise confirmed the desirability of having a cohesive approach. Phil would like to see some synergy in the work. After discussion it was agreed that COA would review the indicators, and look forward to input from Seniors in Poverty (Jack, Jim, Courtney) if they have time to meet. The goal is to have a whole-group discussion in July or August.
- iii. **Communication:** Gail reported that this committee (Gail, Jack, Jim) has met monthly to streamline communication, help with the newsletter, and review the website.
- iv. **By-Laws:** Gail reported on the conclusion of the work of this ad-hoc committee (Gail, Lauren, Jack, Sue), which focused on aligning language with that of the City's ordinances and input from City Legal. There were still some areas that could be clarified in the future. Phil called the question, and the By-Laws were approved 5 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstentions with Julie 1<sup>st</sup> and Courtney as 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lauren and the rest of the Commission thanked and commended Gail for all of her hard work.
- v. Gail reported on the new **Data Committee** (Gail, Phil, Jim, Denise). The focus is to review key data sources relevant to Bloomington senior issues and livability, and to produce user-friendly summaries and similar materials to support the work of the Commission.

- b. **Comprehensive Master Plan Update:** Phil provided an update of COA's input and amendments to the process put forward at the June 5<sup>th</sup> Plan Commission meeting by Isabel Piedmont-Smith, where a total of 146 amendments were reviewed. Most of our changes were adopted; the next meeting is June 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. **City Hall Display:** Lauren thanked Sue and Julie for their wonderful work!
  - d. **Senior Expo Feedback:** Expo went very well; several commission members volunteered for shifts (Lauren, Gail, Jack, Julie, Denise, Phil). Phil donated a lovely plant to the efforts, and Julie is going to tabulate the responses to the question posed at the event.
4. **New Business:**
- a. **Dementia Friendly Bloomington** "thanks yous" were sent out. There was a lot of interest from participants in continuing. This could possibly be the focus of a café for next year. The goals of DFB should ideally align with the Affordable Living/Seniors in Poverty conversation.
  - b. **City of Bloomington 2017 Neighborhood Celebration:** Lauren attended and distributed the Affordable Living Survey and COA brochures to 19 tables to help raise awareness of COA's work.
  - c. **Public Input Opportunities:** Lauren led a conversation about potential ways for COA to engage with the City Council. Gail highlighted the value of COA data comparison work and the selection of relevant indicators. Jack believes that COA should take a position on banning bikes from sidewalks. Phil reminded the group of the need for a Rapid Response Team. There was also a brief conversation about Sally's Place, and the need to have a conversation about community centers, including relevant data and creative options/alternatives. At the last COA retreat, the idea of the community center did not have enough support. Denise spoke about the need to select/reaffirm priorities moving forward to help focus our efforts, and the importance of connecting with other organizations like Downtown Bloomington, Inc. Sue mentioned the Envisage "Lunch and Learn" opportunity, which Courtney and Jim were planning to pursue.
  - d. **Officer Nominations** will take place next meeting, with a vote in August.

Lauren made a motion to **adjourn**; Jack 1<sup>st</sup>, Courtney 2<sup>nd</sup>; adjourned at 6:02 pm.