

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Lauren Cowan at 4:30 p.m. Present were Commissioners Lauren Cowan, Jack Kahn, Gail Londergan, Jim Shelton, Julie Hill, Mary Boutain and Courtney Stewart, thereby constituting a quorum. Commissioners absent were Lei Gong and Alice Oestreich.

Staff Liaison, Sue Owens was present.

Guests present: Elizabeth Dodd, Autumn Hills and Amanda Mosier, IU Health Alzheimer Resource Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioners reviewed both November and December minutes. Jack Kahn motioned to approve November minutes, Mary Boutain seconded, motion passed. Gail Londergan initiated discussion about December minutes related to *Record of Motion and Voting Form*. Sue Owens thought form was duplication of Recorder efforts. Lauren Cowan clarified that this form was introduced and discussed at the December meeting where it was moved and passed as a “pilot” study. We will assess its value at a later date. The commission will use these forms, as needed, to assist the recorder to accurately record more complex issues. Gail made one correction to December minutes adding that she volunteered to move forward updates to CoA website as it related to the Commission 2016 Annual Report. Mary made a motion to approve December minutes as amended, Jack seconded, motion passed.

Jack suggested that we consider appointing a commissioner as Parliamentarian – someone familiar with Roberts Rules of Order. Gail suggested that we consider appointing a sub-committee to clarify our organizational structure. Under Sue’s suggestion, Lauren noted both topics to be discussed under **Additional Agenda Items** at end of agenda if time allowed, and if not, put on next month agenda (February) under New Business.

LIAISON REPORT:

Available Funding remains the same. Appointment/reappointment letters are starting to go out. Lauren stated that there are two open spots to replace Alice Oestreich and Mary Boutain. Phil Stafford has applied.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lauren led a discussion about “Seniors in Poverty” and “Creative Aging”, two initiatives that were approved at the December meeting as primary CoA initiatives for 2017. Lauren spoke about Tom Miller as the new Innovation Director for the City, and the potential opportunity to link our efforts to the many ways innovation will be considered by the current administration. Lauren spoke about the growth taking place in Bloomington currently; in housing and neighborhoods, downtown, our new hospital and the re-purposing of the current hospital site. She feels the work of the commission should include making sure we are informed about decisions that are being made regarding land use, physical space, both for private and community space and programming to ensure that our older adult population is being considered in the planning phases. Lauren noted the importance of learning whether the hospital will have a Geriatrics Dept. and finding

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out if there is any opportunity for a community space/center. She stressed that the CoA should be included in these important planning processes and Lauren will continue to work on “in-roads” with the departments and organizations that are responsible planning for the community.

Lauren stated that Mayor Hamilton has been visiting the City commissions to gain a familiarity with each. As a “conversation starter”, Lauren posed the question; “if the CoA were to sit down with Mayor Hamilton what would we want to convey? What is the best way to work with city government as we move our new initiatives forward?”

Lauren noted that two former commissioners, Georgia Schaich and Sophia Hauserman started Sally’s Place and she would like to see them submitted for an award.

Jack brought up the idea of a Senior Center and wants to get the Mayor’s thought on that.

Jim would like the CoA to participate in the downtown Safe and Civility program and to give older people a voice in the project. He also thinks the CoA needs to increase visibility so that the commission is invited to participate in other City projects that affect the senior population in Bloomington and Monroe County. Lauren asked Jim to research opportunities where the CoA can plug in and bring them back to the February commission meeting.

Gail read a quote from Mayor Hamilton about how to be relevant and the importance of identifying priorities.

Julie Hill asked if the commission would be interested in endorsing the Meals on Wheels Words of Wisdom pilot program that supports low income seniors. The endorsement would result in the CoA being mentioned in a letter to recipients of the program. In turn, the commission may be able to use the opportunity to get feedback from lower income seniors. Courtney Stewart agreed this is a worthwhile project and valuable for the commission to participate in. Julie made a motion to endorse the meals on Wheels Words of Wisdom program, Courtney seconded, motion passed.

Courtney suggested commissioners use their different connections and individual skill sets to impact the commission’s new initiatives. Mary would like to see the commission act more as a cohesive unit and to take meaningful action regarding the new initiatives. Lauren proposed creating and using subcommittees as “think tanks” to move initiatives forward.

Visitor Amanda Mosier spoke about her efforts to make Indiana more dementia friendly. Bloomington is creating an initiative for the whole State of Indiana. Amanda is working with various segments of the community (police for safety, financial institutions for fraud, schools for generational gap) to address needs of seniors with Alzheimer.

OLD BUSINESS:

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Gail discussed the CoA web site and the changes she would like to see. She would like to see more links provided on the web site, especially with regard to the 2016 Annual Report when it gets posted.

Sue explained that City communications are approved by the City and that the commission can make recommendations to change the web site, but that City staff would ultimately make the final decision on outcome. She asked that requests for change or updates be sent to her and she in turn would work with the departmental webmaster and ITS to make updates and changes.

Julie proposed creating a "Communications" subcommittee that could work on the web site, newsletter and Facebook. She also asked the commission to draft a letter to send to the public about the changes to Creative Aging.

Gail made a motion to appoint a subcommittee that will review the CoA website and suggest a process for continual updating and development of the web site as well as work with Sue on Newsletter information. Courtney seconded, motion passed. The following commissioners volunteered to participate on the subcommittee: Gail Londergan, Courtney Stewart, Jack Kahn and Jim Shelton.

Gail Londergan discussed the 2016 Annual Report. Everyone thanked Gail for her effort. Jack made a motion to accept the report as written, Mary seconded, motion passed.

Lauren requested a subcommittee to work on Seniors in Poverty. The following members volunteered: Jack Kahn, Courtney Stewart and Jim Shelton.

Lauren requested a subcommittee to work on Creative Aging. The following members volunteered: Lauren Cowan, Sue Owens and Julie Hill.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

Gail requested a subcommittee to work on organizational issues. The following members volunteered: Gail Londergan, Jack Kahn and Lauren Cowan.

The Commission presented a certificate to Mary Boutain and thanked her for her service to the City and work as a commissioner.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Minutes taken by Elizabeth Dodd, reviewed and written by Sue Owens and Lauren Cowan.