

Bloomington Commission on Aging
Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2017

Prepared by Lauren Cowan

1. **Meeting was called to order at 4:32**
2. **Attendance:** Sue Owens, Lauren Cowan, Courtney Stewart, Julie Hill, Denise Lessow, Gail Londergan, Jack Kahn, Libby Dawson
3. **Minutes:** July minutes were approved as written, with no corrections.
4. **Liaison Report:** Sue reported that the commission spent \$23.92 for a frame for Mayors Pledge and \$26.25 for badges leaving \$2383.07 as the remaining budget.
5. **Old Business:** Was suspended until the September meeting to allow time for our framework discussion.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. Denise explained that she and Lauren had a phone conversation Monday evening to discuss how to format the planned discussion to comment on the indicators of the ALC. Both Denise and Lauren stated that instead of commenting on the ALC's work, it would better serve the commission and the community to continue our work to develop a position statement on aging that could be shared with any group. Lauren mentioned a conversation that she had with Gail about the possibility of changing the focus from seniors in poverty to include all seniors, particularly the "missing middle". Those present agreed that it would be worth considering re-focusing our effort to include "Affordable Living for Seniors" We will discuss this further at a future meeting.
 - b. Denise reviewed the "discussion framework" document that she prepared for our conversation. The document illustrates how the efforts of the commission fit within the six key "Duties and Responsibilities" of the CoA. She communicated her hope that this document, as we work with it, will help us to set priorities and help guide the commission's work going forward as it relates to our values as a commission.
 - a. Julie expressed "sadness" that the CAI was represented only in Category F: "Celebrate the Contributions Seniors make to the Bloomington Community". Julie shared, that to her, this is an indication that some commissioners may not fully understand the intention of the Creative Aging effort. Denise asked Julie to add CAI to all categories that she feels it fits within.
 - b. Julie suggested that we categorize our work as it relates to the 4 domains of Wellness, physical, spiritual, social/emotional, and cognitive/educational. Gail responded that she thinks our work should be categorized, as Denise had prepared, following the duties and responsibilities of the commission. Lauren suggested that a column be added to the framework document coding each item as it relates the 4 domains of wellness. Julie will assign a code to each item on the framework as it fits within the domains.

- c. Denise stated that as we work with the document, that “needs a name” and is in draft form, it will become a useful tool that will expose the deficiencies and strengths in our efforts.
- d. During our discussion, it was clear to many that our format of working on initiatives in sub-committees may not be the way to proceed. The group agreed that working as a cohesive whole may be a more productive way to re-organize. There would still be sub-committee work for tasks to complete. Again, we will discuss this further at a future meeting.
- e. Denise lead us through an exercise to name single words that describe our ideal Bloomington. A list was generated and will be used to focus our efforts going forward. Julie agreed to categorize the words on the list into the 4 Domains of Wellness.
- f. Gail suggested that our document become our value statement. Jack mentioned that it would be a clear indication of what we stand for. Denise suggested that perhaps our current initiative structure “isn’t serving us well” and that with this new exercise that will result in a “value statement”, again to be formally named, it would be a chance to have a paradigm shift from working on specific tasks to working on tasks and projects that reflect the values that we have identified. Gail mentioned that translating our values into action is a positive direction.

7. NEXT STEPS:

- a. Julie will add the category column to the framework document.
 - b. All commissioners are asked to review the document and suggest value statements.
 - c. All commissioners are asked to bring value statements to the September meeting for further review.
8. Julie reviewed the events that the CAI has initially planned. The group discussed the merit of having the flexibility to depart from this list as opportunities arise. One event on the list is a possible partnership with IU Health Bloomington for an educational luncheon featuring Anne Basting as the keynote speaker. All commissioners were interested in pursuing this; Julie offered to find out more specific information about the potential and report back to the commission at a future meeting.
9. Lauren explained that the Dementia Friendly committee will be focusing their efforts on training businesses to become a “Dementia Friendly Business” and suggested that the Commission on Aging become a Dementia Friendly Commission. Lauren proposed a motion to do so, it was seconded by Julie and passed unanimously.
10. Jack motioned to adjourn at 6:30, Courtney seconded, group approved.