

# City of Bloomington Commission on Aging

## Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2018

**Meeting** was called to order at 4:35 pm. In

1. **Attendance:** Lauren Cowan, Libby Dawson, Julie Hill, Jack Kahn, Denise Lessow, Gail Londergan, Phil Stafford and Liaison Sue Owens.  
**Guests:** Troy Haltom
2. **Minutes:** Were unanimously approved (Jack moved, Phil 2<sup>nd</sup>) as noted; in section 4a “an” was changed to “on”.
3. **Liaison Report:** No Liaison Report
4. Farewell to Julie Hill; See statement below from Julie introducing what she will be moving on to:  
Myself and a group of local artists are in the process of forming an artist co-operative called **Creative Options for Wellness** dedicated to helping people integrate holistic practices and expressive arts into routines of daily living. Our first client is the Center for Aging and Community at the University of Indianapolis. They are partnering with the Indiana State Department of Health on a new state-wide initiative to infuse expressive arts into long-term care [phase #1]. Phase #2 will focus on community-based programs and people living at home. We hope to provide consulting services, workshops, retreats and residencies for groups and individuals.
5. **Old Business:**
  - a. **Working Subcommittee Updates:**
    - i. **Comprehensive Master Plan:** Phil reported that a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 1/10/18 to consider amendments. The amendments that particularly concern the CoA are described in the Land Use chapter of the CMP. The principles that were advocated for the Lifetime Community concept were approved by City Council. Isabel Piedmont Smith submitted an edited revision of the amendment to clarify intent. The CoA unanimously approved her edited version of the amendment. Phil described his intent to provide a workshop on the Lifetime Community Concept for the old Hospital District sometime prior to the Urban Land Institute community meetings in April. A motion to endorse the workshop was made and unanimously approved by the Commission.
    - ii. **Creative Aging Initiative:** Julie reported that there are potential opportunities to partner with John Kay and the Mathers Museum. Phil will follow up with John and report back to the Commission with any opportunities for future partnerships.
    - iii. **Seniors in Poverty/Affordable Living:** Lauren passed out a handout summarizing three senate bills introduced to Congress. These bills would affect senior’s ability to receive subsidies and

tax credits for home renovations that would enable seniors to adapt their homes for accessibility. Denise explained that there is a time frame to act on each bill. Lauren will attain more information on the specifics of the bills and the time frame opportunities to act.

- iv. **Data Committee:** Gail reported that the committee is waiting for a substantive response to our Community Survey data request. The request asks for identification of responses from senior-age participants to question #19 in the survey.
- v. **Dementia Friendly Bloomington (DFB):** The CoA will participate in the training provided by DFB at the start of our meeting in February.

- b. **Annual Report:** Denise will present our annual report to the City Council Wednesday 1/10/18. Thank you to Gail for creating the report.

## 6. **New Business:**

### a. **Senior Center:**

- i. IU Health Bloomington is re-organizing the sub-committee that will be discussing plans for the existing hospital site upon relocation of IU Health to the new site.
- ii. The commission discussed the likelihood of a virtual Community Calendar. Our discussion included how it could be organized and the appropriate hosts of the calendar.

### b. **Summary of Commission Discussion**

The commissioners engaged in a discussion about the upcoming community planning for the redevelopment of the Bloomington Hospital site. The Urban Land Institute has been retained by the City to direct the next phase of the citizen input process and will be conducting about 100 interviews in April.

COA members are encouraged to follow the discussions around the site redevelopment, including articles, Facebook meetings, etc.

Denise brought up the idea of the centralized information clearinghouse we had mentioned at the last meeting. Members started to brainstorm organizations that work with elder populations and have similar goals and interests. We also discussed examples of technology being used to assist senior citizens with tasks of daily living. These include voice activation. It was decided to come up with a plan for how to approach the idea of a virtual clearinghouse without duplicating existing efforts. This should include contacting like-minded groups to determine their interest in participating. We would also need to determine the best way to handle and post information so that it minimizes staffing burdens on anyone.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05