

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON AGING
Bykota Senior Center
611 Central Avenue, First Floor, Classroom A
Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Present: Cyndy Allen, Virginia Billian, Frances Bond, Don Gabriel (by phone)
Allan Hirsh, Bill Lambert, Eula Marshall, Roy Moreland, Mabel Murray,
Sheila Roman, Marlene Siegel, Melody Truffer, Cathy Ward

Absent: Sherita Thomas

Guests: John Donohue, Anne Perry

Staff: Susan Brooks, Joanne Williams

I. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Announcements

- The luncheon meeting is December 19 at Bluestone Restaurant.
- Attending the lunch are: Cyndy Allen, Frances Bond, Virginia Billian,
Allan Hirsh, Bill Lambert, Roy Moreland, Sheila Roman, Marlene
Siegel, Melody Truffer, Cathy Ward

III. Approval of the Minutes

- Minutes approved as submitted.

IV. Old Business

Villages

- John Donohue, guest speaker, provided information about the Village
in the rural Jacksonville area.
- There are a few 55 and older communities in the Baltimore County
area.
- Using local churches with twelve actively involved and some provide
funding assistance. Also working with American Legion, Lions Clubs,
Long Green Valley Association, and Greater Jacksonville Association.
- Jacksonville Senior Center is the hub.

- Over the last two years, churches were contacted for volunteers to drive people places and pick up items, such prescriptions.
- We have people to provide transportation and other assistance, such as changing lightbulbs. For people driving, we check their driving record and verify their insurance information.
- Most Villages charge a fee, which is around \$300 to \$400 per year. These fees are charged whether or not you use the Village services.
- We do not charge a fee; we rely on donations from churches and vendors.
- We purchased a software package, \$5,000, for the Village to use. Our package was modified because we do not charge a fee. Once it is running, we will register people.
- Currently, people register through the churches. They will be put into the software once it is operating.
- DC has ten Villages with government involvement.
- The Roland Park / Guilford area has a Village that has been running for eight or nine years.
- Many Villages struggle to get and retain members.
- John suggested that Villages be part of the Baltimore County Department of Aging.
- Funds that the Village receives are used as needed.
- We have found that people building relationships with the people who have taken them to the store or wherever they need to go.
- We need younger people involved.
- A challenge is getting people from outside of the Village to volunteer.
- We publicize through churches.
- Can Department of Aging Senior Center Councils take the next step in some way?
- John would like to return in a year to provide an update on the Village.

Bylaws

- The commission voted and approved the revised Mission Statement presented by the Bylaws Committee to be formally added to the COA Bylaws.

V. New Business

- Anne Perry is leaving the Commission for other projects. Joanne presented a Citation from County Executive Kamenetz, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department of Aging for her 22 years on the Commission, and an etched glass plaque from the Commission in appreciation of her decades of assistance.

Other

- The last Senior Digest showed the Commission on stage with the County Executive at the Power of Age Expo.
- County agencies won five national awards and the Department of Aging won three of those five awards.

Joanne's Updates

- In October, Joanne attended a conference at the Florida International Council on Active Aging. A common thread was to remind people to stay active to age well.
- We want to get the medical community to understand that keeping people connected and engaged is important.
- The brain needs to learn to stay alive so it can heal itself.
- Imagining an activity and doing it are not that different. They light up the same part of the brain.
- Next month is the annual Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) conference in Cambridge and Joanne will be on the panel to discuss the Hospital to Home grant that we are working on with Northwest Hospital. We have been able to help older patients by attending the discharge discussion and plan so that the patients do not return to the hospital within 30 days of being released.

VII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.