

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON AGING
Bykota Senior Center
Classroom A, First Floor
Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Present: Cyndy Allen, Virginia Billian, Frances Bond, Don Gabriel, Eula Marshall, Mabel Murray, Roy Moreland, Sheila Roman, Marlene Siegel, Cathy Ward

Excused: Melody Truffer

Absent: Bill Lambert, Sherita Thomas

Staff: Phyllis Myers, Joanne Williams

I. The Meeting Came to Order at 9:10 a.m.

II. Announcements

- Joanne's father passed away during the Commission's summer break
- Fran's daughter in-law also passed away during the summer break

III. Approval of the Minutes

- Minutes were accepted as submitted

IV. Old Business

- No Committee Updates
- Hand out—2017 CountyRide Operational Statistics
 - Joanne explained each category of the handout
 - Currently there are 26 buses in the fleet; on average approximately 22 buses are on the road making trips
 - Joanne met with County Executive Don Mohler regarding things of concerns for BCDA; Mr. Mohler was surprised to learn how small the CountyRide operation is versus the need of transportation in the County for seniors and the disabled
 - Marlene suggested working with communities to get shuttles in different areas of the county
 - Joanne spoke with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council to help get the word out that transportation is needed in Baltimore County
 - CountyRide currently limits individuals to two rides per week in order to give others a chance to obtain rides

- Don gave a recap of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting he attended on Monday, September 17; four new CountyRide buses will be replacing old buses; there were 10 backup accidents in 2017 and 11 to date. CountyRide is working to re-train for these types of incidents.

V. New Business

- The Social Isolation subject was well covered at the Commission on Aging (COA) brainstorming session in May
- Cyndy mentioned the sudden loss of Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and former BCDA Director and Commission on Aging member Barbara Gradet
- BCDA won 3 national awards for the “Reimagine Aging” initiative
- Senior Expo—Joanne has done several radio interviews regarding Expo; this year’s theme is “Living Longer, Living Well; By 2030 one in five individuals will be of retirement age, outnumbering school aged children; Cyndy encouraged COA members to attend the opening ceremonies of Expo at noon on Wednesday, October 3; she also asked everyone to go around and personally thank the vendors for supporting BCDA; she encouraged everyone to seek donations for the silent auction.
- Sheila spoke of “Beers List,” a list of medications that need to be carefully and thoughtfully considered for use in the elderly
- Joanne explained BCDA’s Hospital to Home grant; BCDA staff member sits on discharging team at Northwest Hospital to be sure patients have all the resources and information they need once they are discharged; the goal is not to have patients in and out of the hospital so frequently
- Cyndy announced the resignation of COA member Allan Hirsh and asked members to recommend replacements to Councilwoman Vicki Almond’s office; Cyndy will send a letter thanking Allan for his service and invite him to the December Holiday luncheon meeting

VI. Director’s Updates

- Maryland Senior Call Check—an automated service that calls seniors to check in on them daily; if the senior does not answer in 3 attempts, a relative is called
- Communities for Life—a Maryland Department of Aging pilot program that is similar to a Village concept; currently participating are Keswick Assisted Living in Baltimore, Broadmead Continuing Care Retirement Community in Cockeysville and a facility in Ocean Pines, Maryland; the pilot began on July 1, 2018 and provide services to seniors 65 or older for a fee

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 10:26 a.m.