

Senior Advisory Committee
Minutes - *DRAFT*
Thursday, April 21, 2016
Hobbit's Glen Golf Course @ 2:30

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm.

Members/Liaisons present: Sharonlee Vogel, Michelle Miller, Arleen Tate, Bernice Kish, Jean Salkeld, George Laniano, John Eberhard, Paul Verchinski, Rusty Toler, and Dale Virginia Wasmus taking meeting notes.

Excused/absent: Roger Chang, Mary McGraw and Courtney Barkley

Introduction of guests: George Laniano introduced two guests from Vantage House that came with him to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Jean Salkeld added under New Business to talk about Howard County Pickleball Club. The Agenda was approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes: The March 2016 meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

New Business:

Lorraine Seelaus, Golf Membership Development & Special Events Coordinator, presented an overview of the new Clubhouse. She included golf leagues for seniors and golf programs happening at Hobbit's Glen and answered questions. The Committee as part of the meeting took a brief tour of the new Hobbit's Glen Clubhouse for about 15 minutes.

Pickleball Club: Jean Salkeld advised that there has been a Howard County Pickleball Club formed to share information about this new sport for seniors. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2016, at 7 pm at the Ellicott City YMCA.

Old Business:

Membership update - Michelle said that the CA Board had a work session on April 14 to discuss membership. The Board asked staff to develop a senior only swim membership, combining Recreation membership, plus a therapy pool and Columbia Gym pool, and Swim Center. Board will discuss at the next Board meeting, May 26.

Change name of Senior Advisory Committee: Sharonlee, Chair, asked if any of the SAC members would like to change the name of the Senior Advisory Committee keeping in mind that the age requirement for this committee is 55 years and older. George made a motion to maintain the name Senior Advisory Committee, the motion was seconded and approved.

Liaison Reports:

Michelle Miller/CA:

- Older Adult Coordinator - position should be filled within the next few weeks. Person on board in May.

- Moving forward with Erickson school and a meeting with Office on Aging, Erickson and CA is scheduled for April 27.
- Columbia Association (CA) is excited to announce that it will be hosting the 10th annual Dog Day Afternoon on Saturday, May 14, with extended hours this year — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Columbia Dog Park. The park is located at 5901 Rivendell Lane, off Cedar Lane and adjacent to Cedar Lane Park, near the Harper's Choice Village Center and Cedar Lane ball fields.
- This is one speaker you don't want to miss! "Diversity Matters: Building on Columbia's History as an Inclusive Community" featuring University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) President Hrabowski. Columbia Association's next Community Building Speakers Series event is co-sponsored by the African American Community Roundtable of Howard County, Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, and 10431 Twin Rivers Road Columbia, MD 21044 Thursday, May 5, 2016 from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

Sharonlee Vogel: MD Commission on Aging:

Proposed Department of Aging budget was approved without change.

Asset Recovery for Exploited Seniors Act passed and will become law. This enables the Maryland Attorney General, on behalf of an older adult, to recover assets, using civil proceedings, from those who have defrauded the older adult. The Attorney General's office has the option to file civil charges in these cases. Filing such charges is not obligatory. The program will be funded through grants.

The Senior Call-Check Service Program did **not** pass. The Department of Aging did not take a position on this bill. There were concerns about funding for the program on the part of another state agency. The bill would not only have provided daily calls to older adults who opt into the system but would have enabled the delivery of emergency information using the same service. The Senior Call-Check Program would cost \$350,000 to set up. The State relay system funds (over funded currently at \$12,000,000) would be used. Relay group were against the bill.

Commercial Law - Consumer Protection - Door to Door Sales passed. It provides that in the case of a door-to-door home improvement contact, the homeowner will have **seven days, if over the age of 65**, in which to cancel the contract. (This is an increase from three days.)

The State statute was modified so the Senior Center Operating Fund program definition of "distressed jurisdiction" conforms to other sections of the annotated code. A formula will now be used to award such funds. This is especially good for the non-distressed areas since funds are now freed up.

The Department of Aging has begun a grant pilot program to train medicine aides to administer and monitor use of prescription medications by seniors living in the community. Initial funding is \$100,000. This program will have at least two benefits: Enhancing disease self-management by the senior and providing job training and employment skills to the aid. The Department plans to initiate other health-related innovations through local jurisdictions. This program is in the very early training stages.

Howard County Commission on Aging:

Upcoming Events:

- April 9 - Identity Theft Presentation at Miller Library

- WomenFest, Howard County's signature wellness event for women, takes place on Saturday, April 30, 10:00 am to 3 pm Gary J. Arthur Community Center, 2400 Route 97, Cooksville. With more than 100 vendors and exhibitors, engaging seminars and free health screenings, WomenFest is designed to inspire women to live a more balanced, healthy and fulfilled life. New to this year's event is Core Camp, a series of free 45-minute fitness classes (Pilates at 10:30 am, yoga at 12:30 pm and yogalates at 2 pm.)
- May 26 - Carfit at Neighbor Ride Headquarters
- June 20 - Elder Abuse Awareness Conference
- May 5 - Cycle2Health will hold their annual kickoff at East Columbia 50+ Center
- Loan Closet ribbon cutting will be held in June

The County and the Erickson School status - Meeting soon with representatives from Erickson, Office on Aging and CA to get more information on what is possible.

50+ Expo - EXPO is filling quickly; if you know of an organization that would like booth space, please encourage them to reserve space soon. Work on the new Job Fair is continuing to move forward. The theme for this year's EXPO is technology.

Member Sharing:

Sharonlee Vogel: CA lien increasing - seniors see nothing in this increase except money into Haven on the Lake. CA membership dues for facilities are too much; seniors don't purchase plans because of the cost. They feel since they helped build Columbia, have stayed, they should get some benefit - they do not want to pay for "options" that are part of a package that they will never use. Seniors particularly desire indoor swimming, especially during winter months to be affordable. Seniors feel they are being "overlooked" even ignored by CA....what in it for them? Another issue concerns the Inner Arbor Trust [IAT]...there is the feeling that everything is being done behind closed doors - where is the accounting for all the money already spent?

Jean Salkeld: Resident cards, fitness and volunteers lunch.

Bernice Kish: Attended the lunch at Wilde Lake. Not any issues.

Arleen Tate: Is attending the 50+ lunch at Hawthorn on 5/13/16.

George Laniano: Swimming pool issues.

Meeting Schedule: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2016 @ 2:30 pm at CA Headquarters

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm.