

Senior Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 21, 2019
CA Headquarters

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

Members/Liaisons Present: Sharonlee Vogel (Chair), Michelle Miller (CA), Patty Dugan (CA), Elizabeth Johnson, David Zeitzer, Genie Wessel, Mary McGraw, and Dale Virginia Wasmus (CA) taking notes.

Absent/Excused: Roger Chang, Pearl Atkinson-Stewart, Paul Verchinski, George Laniado, Steve Cook, Barbara Scher, Office of Aging, and John Eberhard

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Agenda.

Approval of Minutes: The September 2019 meeting minutes were tabled until the January 16, 2020 meeting.

Chair's Report: On 12/3/19 at a presentation at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, the Howard County Government will be announcing that Howard County is seeking to become an Age- friendly community.

The next Howard County Budget Hearing will be held on 12/19/19 taking input from seniors about the new East Columbia 50+ Center. Many are concerned about budget cuts regarding the new center. Keep lobbying for the new center, show up at the budget hearings and send letters to County Executive Calvin Ball and the Council representatives.

Introduction of Guests: Sharonlee introduced Ted Wolfe, Landscape Manager for HowardEcoWorks who will present to the group.

Presentation: HowardEcoWorks is a local non-profit and is two years old. A lot of their work is storm water restoration. One of the goals is to restore 33,000 square feet of local watersheds by FY21. HowardEcoWorks partners with Howard Community College, Howard County Government and CA, among others. The Ready Program started in 2012 and encompasses stormwater remediation, youth employment, workforce development and restoring the environment. This program is for high school and college age students. Planting native fruit trees such as PawPaw, Black Cherry, Serviceberry, Persimmon, Chestnut and Black Walnut helps to restore the ecosystems. This non-profit is always looking for skilled, professional volunteers.

Liaison Reports: Sharonlee announced that she has been re-elected as Chair of the Howard County Commission on Aging, for the third time. She is also the President of Howard County Arts Council.

Michelle Miller/CA: Columbia Association is in the process of preparing the 2yr budget. CA Board receives the budget binder in December and there will be January and February work sessions. The Budget should be approved by the end of February 2020. Money has been put into the Budget for Columbia Art Center renovations. KASA is meeting with Liz Henzey, Manager of Columbia Art Center, to discuss activities for them at the Art Center while the Bain Center is being renovated.

Patty Dugan/CA: The recent Skill Share Fair & Repair Cafe had approximately 100 people attend. It was held at the East Columbia Library. Patty did a demo on how to make a t-shirt bag. On 1/15/20 there will be a Do It Yourself Skills Fair at Elkridge 50+ Center. Patty spoke about and passed out fliers for an upcoming study to fight Alzheimer's disease. Exercise for Brain Health study is seeking participants ages 60-89 In good health, not physically active and not diagnosed with cognitive impairment. Open to the public and no cost to participate.

Village in Howard: Mary McGraw shared with the group that the first BINGO fundraiser was a smashing success - made \$8,000. There are currently 180 members.

Member Sharing:

Genie Wessel: On 11/21, 22, 23 Wilde Lake High School presents Matilda the Musical. Breakfast and More with Santa will take place on 12/ 7/19. Attended meeting on Pickleball.

David Zeitzer: Hickory Ridge will hold a holiday craft fair on 11/24/19. Hosting a 50+ lunch on 12/5/19, 11:30 am - 1 pm. Howard County Police will be in attendance to talk about Scams targeting seniors. On 12/13/19 Pizza with Santa will take place. Talk continues about revitalization of the village center.

Elizabeth Johnson: Visited the Bahamas and the truck load of donations from her sorority arrived. She was able to visit centers in Free Port for the elderly and for children. So rewarding to see their faces light up when they received the donations.

Mary McGraw: Dorsey's Search is full of signs reading My School is Northfield. In response to the redistricting of Howard County Public Schools. Upcoming activities

are breakfast with Santa and the 50+ Lunch at Linden Hall.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Genie to adjourn the meeting with David seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Next meeting January 16, 2020.