

Senior Advisory Committee
Agenda
Thursday, March 18, 2021
2:30 pm Virtual, via Zoom

Call to Order

Members/Liaisons present/excused/absence

Sharonlee Vogel (Chair),_Genie Wessel (Vice Chair),_Roger Chang, David Zeitzer, Pearl Atkinson-Stewart
Jean Salked, Elizabeth Johnson, John Eberhard
Renee Dubois (CA Board), Leslie Barnett, for Michelle Miller (CA), Darleen Vaseleros (HC Office on Aging)

Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of minutes: January 2021

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Chairs Report

Sharon reported that Kristin Russell, Director of Planning and Community Affairs gave an overview of the HoCo by design project. The final report has been shared with CA Board and will be posted on the CA website in the future.

FY 21 3rd quarter - CA will have approximately \$3million more income than anticipated. There are discussions on how Villages will benefit from this.

Haven on the Lake will close April 30, which will save CA approximately \$1.2 million a year. CA will continue to pay the rent for 5 years unless/until they can sublet the property. .

Liaisons Report:

CA:

Leslie Barnett for Michelle Miller - No updates

Office on Aging:

Darlene reported on continued efforts to support the call Maryland Access Point telephone lines. The county is partnering with faith based communities to offer vaccine clinics and with Howard Community College on setting up a drive through vaccine site. The Age Friendly Committees continue to meet and will have a final report in April.

The 50+ Centers are continuing virtual programming. There is no update on when they will open, but the fitness center will be reopening in mid-April.

Celebrating Volunteer Opportunity Appreciation month - painting thank you rocks go to HoCovolunteer.org for more information .

Introduction of Guests: Marty Oltmanns, CA Aquatics Manager

Presentation: Overview of CA's Aquatics programs

Marty reported that 15 outdoor pools will open this summer. The pools that are opening accounted for 80% of usage in previous years. There will be 90 minute lap lane reservations and 90 minute open swim time. Reservations will be required and can be made 10 days in advance.

Will follow capacity guidance set by Gov and County Exec and is expected to be 80-100 people during each block of time Senior Swim will continue at Hobbits Glen Pool and expand to include weekends as well.

John commented that he misses the Masters Swim program at the Swim Center and Marty said it will be expanded when it's deemed safe.

Roger asked about Clippers - Marty said clippers had been ongoing and also shared that CNSL will operate this summer. Teams will stay at one pool for practices and meets will be held virtually. .

Jean asked about water aerobics etc... Marty said the schedule will be the same as it has been in the past, but space will be limited and pre registration will be required.

Ginny asked what's going to happen to the pools that do not open this summer, will they stay closed forever. Marty said there are no plans to permanently close the pools and explained that one of the biggest challenges is getting qualified life guards. They still need about 40 lifeguards for the summer, and it's a problem everywhere.

Pearl asked if water is sanitized enough due to chlorine. Marty said there have been several studies regarding COVID transmissions in pools. There has not been one known case of COVID being transmitted in indoor pools. Masks will be required at all times except when someone is actually swimming. Tables and umbrellas will be provided but people will have to bring their own chairs.

Liaisons Report: (continued)

Village in Howard - Mary was not present but Sharonlee reported that there are about 160 members

CA Board:

Rene Dubois reported that the Board is in the midst of hiring a new CEO. The search began almost a year ago with the help of search firm Baker Tilly. The candidate pool has been narrowed for 80 candidates down to three. There have been multiple interviews and final interviews will be held this week, and decision will be held next week and hopefully an offer will be made by next Friday. We were fortunate to have a very diverse group of candidates.

Sharonlee asked about why the CEO decision is being made by this board, instead of waiting for the new board. Rene explained that it has taken almost a year and since the new board would be seated at the same time Milton is retiring so CA could have been left without a CEO for a year.

The next board meeting will include discussion and a decision about how to use the \$3million surplus. Most board members priorities are Village Associations, shoring up CA's financial stability, putting funds back into insurance trust money, and/or putting more money into cash reserve account.

John asked why the Senior Events Shuttle was not funded. Rene said she did not know, the senior management makes decisions and presents to the board.

Rene encouraged people to vote in the village elections and reported that River Hill is contested. Pearl asked if others were contested and Rene reported there are; Hickory Ridge, Oakland Mills, King Contrivance and Wilde Lake with three candidates .

Member Sharing: Two minutes, :02 from each SAC member on what they have heard from seniors in their village or Columbia that seniors are saying, wanting, wishing

Elizabeth - Nothing to share

Roger - Received his first shot & he started outdoor martial arts training in a different county

Genie - WL is focusing on elections. They have 3 candidates for the council, but only had two candidates for three village board positions. Info on how to vote will be published in the newsletter. She also reported that she was accepted for a program at Cornell that focuses on the environment

David - said they are still having hearings in village center and same thing with Limestone

Jean - both she and husband had both vaccines - was complimentary on how the county ran the clinic and thanked Sharonlee on sharing information. She said KC is vibrant and doesn't have the same problems that others. She welcomes Rene as a new member to Village.

John - Is part of program at MIT working on issues dealing with people 85 and above regarding loneliness and housing. He's met up with a small group of 5-7 people who go hiking every week.

Pearl - Has been spending time testifying to County Council on 50+ center and tax credit 35 years and incentives. She said the 50+ center in Owen Brown is the only one that doesn't have kitchen to provide hot meals or an exercise room. There are three council members who voted against renovations last time and it's believed they will be voting against it again.

Sharonlee - Has been involved in UofMD brain exercise study - did a bunch of tests and has been working out 4 days a week. Hopefully she and her husband will be going to New York to see her first great grandchild

Rene asked about the next meeting and said if she is not reelected to the CA board she would like to join the committee.

Adjournment:

Next Meeting:

June 17, 2021 by ZOOM