

Senior Advisory Committee
Minutes
Thursday, January 13, 2022
2:30 pm Virtual, via Zoom

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

Members/Liaisons present/excused/absence

Present: Sharonlee Vogel (Chair), Genie Wessel (Vice Chair), John Eberhard, Elizabeth Johnson, Roger Chang, Mary McGraw, David Zeitzer, Ginny Thomas (CA Board), Leslie Barnett (CA), Darleen Vaseleros (HC Office on Aging)

Excused: Jean Salkheld

Absent: George Laniado, Pearl Atkinson-Stewart

Guest: Celindah Grier, is interested in being the Hickory Ridge representative. HR Village Board needs to vote to approve her nomination, then SAC will vote and if she is voted in, it will be presented to the CA Board.

Graegary Keogh, Brightview Senior Living

Approval of Agenda - The agenda was approved without changes.

Approval of Minutes: December 2021 minutes were approved with the following changes: Skye said she did not speak on the Community Plan as was written in the minutes.

Presentation:

Guest Speaker, Graegary Keogh, Brightview Senior Living, Community Sales Director, gave an overview of the facility which opened in September 2021. Options available are independent living, assisted living and memory care. There is no buy in, everything is month-to-month rental. Many amenities included as well as continental breakfast daily, brunch on Sundays and dinners Mon - Sat. Graeg will send the slide presentation to Sharonlee who will forward it to the committee. Contact info: Gkeogh@bvsl.net, 443/583-0785

Liaisons Report:

CA: Leslie Barnett

The CA draft budget will be published Jan 21st, online feedback will be Jan 22- 26th. Members are encouraged to listen to the CA Board meeting Jan 27 and Board discussion on Feb 10th. Final approval vote is scheduled for Feb 24th.

At the Athletic Club, we now offer three Build Your Bones classes weekly: NEW Mon 9:45 am, Tues 12 pm, and Thurs 12 pm. Added an additional aqua arthritis class in the therapy pool on Tuesdays at 10:30 am. Non-members with a CA card can attend for a fee on a space available basis. In January, we started Chair Yoga on Tuesdays at 12 pm at Columbia Gym.

Strong continued growth and support of PickleBall. Hosted a unique event on Oct 29 celebrating World Pickleball Day - 10+ hours straight of pickleball at Long Reach - approximately 37 players played/rotated in and out.

The Art Center has hired a new painting teacher who is offering daytime classes geared towards 55+.

CA Board Representative: Ginny Thomas thanked Sharonlee for meeting with her and said she has been reviewing the SAC Charter. She suggested the committee review the appointment process, selection criteria and number of members.

Ginny reported that the CA Board will be reviewing Board Committees tonight - are the ones we have still relevant? Do we need others?

Three budget scenarios were presented. Scenarios 2 and 3 both require an increase in the annual charge. Ginny voted against an increase of the annual charge; the vote passed 5-4. The minimum wage increase required a \$500K adjustment in the budget.

Mary asked Ginny if there were any planned events for Columbia residents will meet Lakey. Ginny said Lakey has been to many groups. Leslie said she didn't think there were plans for any kind of meet and greet event due to COVID, but will ask Lakey if she is available to just introduce herself at the next SAC meeting.

The Village in Howard: Mary McGraw

There are about 185 members. They are not doing large group activities due to COVID. Two new programs are Good Morning Howard and PODS. Good Morning Howard is Monday and Wednesday morning via Zoom on various topics.

PODS - people who are interested in a particular topic can form a small group and meet in each other's home or via Zoom pods.

Office on Aging: Darleen Vaseleros

On Tuesday, January 25th at 11 am County Executive Ball will host a virtual press conference to announce that the Age-Friendly Action Plan has been approved by AARP and implementation will begin immediately.

- There will be a series of presentations to introduce the public to Age-Friendly Howard County and the Action Plan. The dates will be posted on our Age-Friendly webpage so please share this information with all your networks. www.howardcountymd.gov/agefriendly next week. We are asking SAC members to share this with members of the community.

50+Centers

Based on the continued positivity rates, OAI has reduced programs through January 31st:

- The 50+ Centers and fitness centers will remain open and members are welcome to come to the centers; however, there will not be any organized or sponsored programs or group activities through January 31st.
- The virtual 50+ Center will continue to operate.

- The Connections Social Day Program at Ellicott City will not operate through the end of January.
- On another note, Barbara Scher, the 50+Center Divisional Manager has announced her retirement. Her last day will be January 31, 2022.

SHIP

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period

January 1 – March 31 so if you have Medicare Part C and wish to change your plan or have any questions about your plan, contact our Howard County SHIP department to schedule a virtual meeting with a certified SHIP Counselor.

Call us at 410-313-7392 to schedule a remote counseling appointment with a Certified SHIP Counselor.

Lunar New Year Restaurant Initiative

Restaurant: Mandarin House

Location: 9105 All Saints Rd, Laurel, MD 20723

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 8th from 10:30-11:30 am

Meal: Beef & Snow Peas, Chicken Fried Rice, Fried tofu appetizer, mandarin orange

Value of meal: \$16.25

Registration will start on Monday, January 24 to Wednesday, January 26 via

<https://bit.ly/HoCoLunarNewYear> and Nutrition Line 410-313-3640 from 9 am to 3 pm

Community Connector - Neighbor Ride & Winter Growth wheelchair accessible transportation – for medical appointments, Monday – Friday.

Chairs Report: Sharonlee Vogel

Meetings for the rest of the year are listed on the agenda.

In the charter SAC is approved for up to 17 voting members - Sharonlee suggested we change the charter to 12 voting members anyone can come to a meeting. After a discussion it was decided to keep the charter as is with regard to the number of voting members allowed.

There was a discussion regarding attendance/participation. Members of the Committee have a responsibility to participate: we need a quorum but also need to be mindful of individual circumstances. After a discussion the topic was tabled and the chair will reach out to members who are not responding and encourage them to either participate or resign.

ArtReach is returning to Long Reach June 4th 11 am-7 pm. It's a collaborative effort with various organization including Howard County Arts Council, CA, Long Reach Village Association, many of the LR Village vendors and many more. It's a free event with entertainment, art demonstrations and activities. They will be looking for volunteers.

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

Mary McGraw - Dorsey is doing just fine. The area she lives in is full of kids and she is among the only senior.

Genie Wessel - Wilde Lake - Fences have become a big issue; people are fencing off their property

with 6-8 foot fences. Green Mountain Circle has become “Green Mountain Speedway”, and it's very dangerous crossing the road. They are working on some mitigation efforts.

Roger Chang - Kings Contrivance - KC held some Edible Landscaping classes. There has not been a senior luncheon or volunteer luncheon. Roger asked if that was because of funding or COVID; Genie said she thought it was COVID related.

John Eberhard - Town Center – Residences at Vantage Point is doing well, but are now beginning to charge more for programs. Bus trip to show in New York was wonderful. Physical therapy and exercise programs need constancy or they don't work. Pickleball is the start of physical activity.

Celindah Grier - Hickory Ridge - Bright View is a good addition to the village. They have a number of ongoing activities: seated yoga, virtual story time, senior lunch limited capacity. For the past couple months, they have not had any ARC applications, but had a lot during the shutdown. They are trying to get guidelines out which are required to be provided to new homeowners.

David Zeitzer - Snowden Overlook has plenty of activities going on, but attendance is down for many of them.

Sharonlee Vogel - Long Reach - Sustainability plan is being updated. See ArtReach (see Chair's report).

Adjournment: meeting was adjourned at months, 4:10pm

Next Meeting: March 17th at 2:30pm