

**Senior Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**Thursdays June 16, 2022**  
**Columbia Art Center**  
**2:30 pm via Zoom**

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

**Members/Liaisons present/excused/absence:** Sharonlee Vogel (Chair), Genie Wessel (Vice Chair), Celinda Grier, David Zeitzer, Elizabeth Johnson, Mary McGraw, Roger Chang, Leslie Barnett CA), Ginny Thomas (CA Board), Guest: Pete Brunner

**Excused:** Darleen Vaseleros (HC Office on Aging), George Laniado, Jean Salkeld

**Absent:** John Eberhard, Pearl Atkinson-Stewart/will only attend if virtual

**Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved as submitted.

**Approval of Minutes:** Genie moved to have the Minutes of the March 10, 2022, meeting approved' David seconded the approval. The Minutes were approved as submitted.

**Liaison Reports:**

**The Village In Howard – Mary McGraw**

Several people in the Village have been working on a new logo that should be ready soon. Some indoor activities have resumed such as mahjong and bridge, hopefully more will be added in the fall. Current membership is approximately 177.

**Office on Aging & Independence – Given by Sharonlee**

- OAI has been recognized for two awards. The National Association of Counties (NACo) awarded two Achievement Awards – one for our virtual 50+ Center and the other for their Grab & Go meal distribution.
- OAI has published a new digital newsletter. Distributed through Constant Contact, the digital newsletter includes links to the current issues of the 50+ Connection, Virtual Program Guide and 50+ center quarterly newsletters. It also offers an additional way to share timely news about upcoming DCRS and OAI programs.
- Calvin Ball invites you to join him for Lunch to Learn to hear about plans underway to implement the Age-Friendly Action Plan. A series of Lunch & Learn sessions are planned this month
  - catered lunch as you explore the elements of the Action Plan
  - Before attending one of the Lunch to Learn sessions, participants are encouraged to review the action plan at [www.howardcountymd.gov/agefriendly](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/agefriendly).
  - Wednesday, June 29, 5-6 pm at East Columbia 50+Center
  - Wednesday, July 6, 11:30 am-12:30 pm at Ellicott City 50+Center
  - Friday, July 15, 12-1 pm at Elkridge 50+Center

- Space is limited; **please register** to reserve your lunch now
- 50+ Centers have a new Division Manager as of June 6, Matt Madera. Matt is a seasoned County employee who has previously worked with Recreation and Parks.
- 50+Centers has 3 new nutrition specialists
- Living Well workshops are community-based workshops in a small group setting that helps adults become stronger and better educated in managing ongoing health conditions
- Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC) virtual series (offered via WebEx) presents topics and self-care tools to help caregivers
- Kathreen “Katy” Lee is the new Program Manager for the Ombudsman program

#### CA - Leslie Barnett

- CA is starting a walking series called **Walk with a Doc** in September. It's a national program where they discuss a health topic and then do a walk.
- All pools will be open, schedules can be found on the website.

#### **Introduction of Guests:** Pete Brunner, The Villages In Howard

#### **Presentation:** Aging in Place More Affordably

- The presentation highlighted seniors' challenges to remain in their homes
- Various tax credits
- New state tax legislation affecting seniors

#### **Chair's Report - Sharonlee**

##### Village by Village demographic

Jean Salkheld has resigned from the Committee; she will be spending her time traveling and with family. We are now looking for representatives from Oakland Mills, River Hill, Town Center, Harpers Choice

ArtReach was great.

Employment - Oakland Mills, Town Center are hiring event staff, Town Center and Long Reach are hiring as well.

All County Council members are running for re-election.

5G is coming - if your phone is older, it may not work on 5G. If your phone only works on 4G you're better off getting a new phone - HCHD Free smart Phone program -

Low income Federal Lifeline program Lifeline support.org

Columbia Festival or the Arts is looking for volunteers; free t shirt, picnic and Columbia Festival.Org

Art Reach

Genie - Walk Columbia can do anytime over a period of time or have a larger event.

September/October

**Members Sharing** – *Two minutes*, :02, from each SAC member on what they are hearing/have heard from seniors in their Villages, communities, networks in Columbia

Elizabeth – Residences at Vantage Point had a seminar with Joy Lovede, discussing her book *Who Will Take Care of Me When I'm Old?* About 100 people attended and everyone got a copy of the book.

Roger - recently had a great vacation in California. He will distribute copies of today's presentation at the Kings Contrivance senior luncheon.

David - Reports show that seniors are paying the most and getting the least in Maryland so many are moving to Delaware which has lower property taxes and no sales tax. With elections coming up David encouraged people to write to your Maryland delegates.

Genie - A lot of younger people are moving in. The pool is open this year! People should look at the value of tax credits. Pete offered to do a workshop on reading tax assessment worksheets.

Mary - Wondering at SAC meetings Senior Dance together asked about Patty Dugan's position. Sharonlee asked Leslie to ask Dan to look into bringing that position back part time.

**Next Meeting will be August 11, 2022**