

Agenda
CA Senior Advisory Committee
August 11, 2022
CA Headquarters
6310 Hillside Court, Suite 100
Columbia, MD 21046

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, Roger Chang, Pete Brunner, Leslie Barnett (CA), Ginny Thomas (CA Board), Terri Hansen (HC Office on Aging), Guest: Rene Dubois (River Hill Village Manager)

Excused: Mary McGraw

No Longer On SAC: John Eberhard, George Laniado

Approval of Agenda: Genie moved to have the Agenda approved, Roger seconded. The Agenda approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: Roger moved the June 16, 2022; approved Genie seconded. The Minutes were approved as submitted.

Open Discussion

Meeting times- Sharonlee asked if anyone would like to change the time or day for the meetings. After the discussion, it was decided we would continue the meetings on the third Thursday of every other month at 2:30. Locations will change so committee members have an opportunity to see other facilities. The next meeting will be September 15th.

Several items were discussed that will require a request to the CA Board of Directors for changes to the charter:

Changes to Committee Name - Sharonlee opened the discussions of changing the committee's name. After a lively discussion, Sharonlee asked everyone to send her two name suggestions. In the September meeting, the suggestions will be discussed and could be voted upon.

Sharonlee discussed focus groups done in the past and asked if CA would pay for facilitators. Ginny explained the process for getting funding in the budget.

Rene brought up that the age for members stipulated in the charter is 55, and suggested we change it to 50+. There was agreement on the suggestion.

One of the recent accomplishments was sending a letter to the CA Board requesting they lobby for Seniors regarding the impact of the taxes. A discussion ensued regarding County Councilmember Deb Jung's bill and the two items related to seniors that are missed. It was decided we would ask the CA Board to advocate with the County Council to amend the bill to include "Aging in community" rather than "aging in place".

Membership and requirements - We have a problem with committee members not showing up to meetings without giving any explanation. This has a negative impact in that if we do not have a quorum, we cannot vote on anything and carry out our responsibilities as a committee. Sharonlee suggested that if someone has two unexcused absences they should be removed from the committee. After some discussion this was agreed.

There was a discussion about the number of committee members, the charter specifies one from each village and up to seven at large members for a total of 17. After a discussion it was decided there would be no change.

The discussion regarding the meeting structure and content:

- Presentations are helpful and important
- Chair should have flexibility to structure the meetings and to make changes
- Suggestions - Ask Deb Jung to come to the September meeting
- Topics that impact neighboring counties we should invite the equivalent of the SAC for that county.
- One of the goals of this Committee is to report back any perceived barriers and we should include updates in our meetings
- We will continue to have regular status updates on Age Friendly Howard
- It might be useful if we could be specific objectives that are measurable and then review

Demographics - Leslie will follow up with Jessica for updated demographic information. We will also request information from the Office on Aging. We need to specify what we want and why. Pete will send suggestions to Sharonlee who will pass it along to Terri.

Liaison Reports:

CA - Leslie Barnett CA is starting a walking series called **Walk with a Doc** in October. It's a national program where they discuss a health topic, and then do a walk. We will also be participating in the Walktober event.

- All pools opened this summer but are now starting to close.

Village in Howard

- -Mary is out but Sharonlee and Peter reported there are approximately 177 members. They are now doing more in person activities. One example is a group was created to take one of members to radiation treatments. The response was overwhelming.

- On September 14th the presentation Pete did in June for the SAC will be put on TVIH *Good Morning Howard*.
- The manager has resigned, and there is a committee looking into whether they need a manager or executive director. It would be part time and will include fundraising.

HC Office on Aging - Terri Hansen

- Terri is the Age Friendly Coordinator and will be the liaison going forward.
- Monday - Aug 15th Bain Center will host a Community Craft and Yard Sale
- Grand reopening of the Bain Center will be Wed Sept 28th, 10am-3pm
- East Columbia will have an Ice Cream Social 8/26 at 1pm
- October 15th- Dec 7th is open enrollment for Medicare - counselors will assist virtually or in person. You should look at it every year. Please help us get the word out. Terri will send Sharonlee flyer about 1-800-Medicare open 24/7 and she will distribute to SAC members and other networks.
- Resource Guide - comes out every October. It's been restructured and is available for distribution.
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was June 15th, abuse can be physical, emotional or financial or neglect. She provided information and resources.
- In person lunches at 50+ centers are resuming. Ellicott City will also offer breakfast on Wednesdays. 60+ are asked to give a donation, people under 60 pay a fee
- Walktober - Participating - Miller's Grant sign up on Walktober website
- Tonight is the last lunch and learn, at East Columbia 50+ center - few spaces still available.

Member sharing

- Celindah - Nothing to report
- Pearl - Seniors are expressing concerns about crime in Owen Brown. Many seniors have stopped walking around the Lake Elkhorn.
- David - Spoke about charging stations for electric cars and the proposed new tax bill.
- Elizabeth - Planning to attend the Office on Aging meeting at 6pm tonight
- Genie - Mailbox at end of Green Mountain circle has been vandalized and people are removing things. The police advise people to not use it until this is resolved.
- Roger - Thanked Pete for great talk in June 15 SAC meeting. He reproduced the handout for an event at Amherst House, and it was packed house.
- Rene - River Hill is putting together programming that brings Seniors out of their homes, multi-generational, mostly under 35 and over the age of 60.

Next Meetings: September 15 and November 17, 2022; January 19, March 16, May 18, July 20, September 21, November 16, 2023.