

MEETING MINUTES
FARMINGTON AREA COMMISSION ON AGING
JANUARY 28, 2020
FARMINGTON CITY OFFICES
23600 LIBERTY
FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN 48335

CALLED TO ORDER BY VICE CHAIR MARIAN SCHULTE AT 5:31.

MEMBERS PRESENT: MARY BUCHAN, NANCY COOK, COLLEEN IRVIN, JANE FROST, LINDA LEE, KATHERINE MARSHALL, MARIAN SCHULTE, KARINA WEGLARZ.

MEMBERS ABSENT: LAURA CHAMPAGNE, CARL CHRISTOPH, CHUCK COLLINS, DAN FANTORE, JULIE MCCOWAN

OTHERS PRESENT: MICHAEL BRIDGES: LIAISON FOR FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL, MARSHA KOET: SENIOR DIVISION LIAISON, NORVENA WILSON: FARMINGTON HILLS RESIDENT AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF CSSWC (COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES FOR WAYNE COUNTY).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- MOTION BY N.COOK TO APPROVE.
- SUPPORT BY K. WEGLARZ.
- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 26, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

- MOTION BY C. IRVIN TO APPROVE.
- SUPPORT BY J. FROST
- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNICATIONS, PROMOTIONS, WEBSITE

- M. Schulte reported that after compiling statistics from several months, the webmaster Geri Furi has concluded there are approximately 40 hits on the website per month.
- "Connect", a publication from AAA 1B will now appear on the website. This addition will complement the COA's senior directory and offer informational articles.

EDUCATION

- K. Weglarz repeated this sub-committee's intention to offer a workshop for caregivers in the fall of 2020. Topics were repeated; a decision on the best one will be made soon. There was some discussion of the best time to present this program. Evening seems the best because very few programs are available at the time.
- Committee was asked to provide an interesting and descriptive paragraph about the COA for the Farmington Hills website.

COMMUNITY FOR A LIFETIME

- J. Frost would like to re-group and set goals for this sub-committee.
- Discussion of ways to co-operate with Farmington Hills when planning focus groups and/or surveys. The city has developed 12 questions which target housing needs. The COA can use the same instruments to determine topics of interest. Sources for contacting the public for surveys include Fitness Day, Health Fair, C.A.R.E.S. The deadline for these projects is November, 2020.

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VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST

- Theme will be "We're Sweet on our Volunteers."
- Mayor Barnett will attend; an official from the city will also attend.
- M. Koet suggested that the Goodfellows receive the award for helping seniors in the area.
- Forms for nominating recipients were available.

SENIOR DIVISION LIAISON REPORT

- M. Koet reported that income tax assistance begins in February.
- Fewer seniors are attending dance programs and alternative activities are being planned. One is the very successful Dine and Discover. Others are international food meals for Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion of Christmas basket deliveries. N. Cook related her experiences with two recipients.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nominations for 2020-2021 officers were submitted: Chair: Marian Schulte, co-chair: Laura Champagne, Secretary: Mary Buchan. Elections will be held at the February meeting.

COMMENTS

Liaison Michael Bridges shared the results of the Farmington Hills City Council's goal setting meeting.

Items of interest include

- Dealing with the deer population. Aerial observations have identified areas of greatest concentration of the deer. This is a regional problem.
- Recreational marijuana use: Cities have been able to opt out of having stores in their areas, but there is speculation that the state may intervene. Odor is a big problem.
- HAWK CENTER may be finished enough for a trial run at the end of 2020; Opening is scheduled for 2021.
- New police chief
- Interest in self-driving cars and the young talent that develops them was discussed. Desirability of providing stimulating employment for Michigan college graduates is a concern.

Visitor Norvena Wilson discussed a Virtual Senior Center project that she has started in Wayne County. By using telephones, seniors experience visits to places that might be inaccessible for them. There are plans to arrange actual visits to neighborhood businesses where seniors can learn about the services that are offered, costs involved and time required. Examples included the DIA, the Historical Society, programs from AAA 1B. The concept of a POP-UP senior center was also discussed.

COA interest was evident as the project was described.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25. The next meeting is February 25 at the Farmington City offices.

Minutes prepared by Mary Buchan, secretary