

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE AGING IN PLACE COMMISSION
VILLAGE HALL – ROOM 101
123 Madison Street, Oak Park, IL
August 13, 2019
7:00 pm

PRESENT: Commissioners William Fillmore, Monika Robinson, Barbara Mirel, Nancy Teclaw, and Barbara Cimaglio.

ABSENT: Chair Lance Taylor and Commissioner Kenneth Gill.

GUEST: Mr. Jim Peters, Resident.

STAFF PRESENT: DCS Assistant Director Cameron Davis (back-up staff liaison).

Roll Call: Acting Chair Fillmore called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Agenda Approval – A motion was made by Commissioner Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Teclaw to approve the agenda, as presented. The motion passed.

Non-Agenda Public Comment: Mr. Jim Peters, an Oak Park resident, introduced himself to the Commission. Mr. Peters stated that he is interested in what the Village is doing to assist seniors in the community so he decided to attend the meeting to find out for himself.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Teclaw and seconded by Commissioner Cimaglio to approve the minutes of July 9, 2019. The motion passed.

Regular Agenda

- A. **Dementia Friendly Village Designation** - The Commission's recommendation was passed by the Village Board in June. Staff member Davis explained that one of the first tasks will be to hold a community "team" meeting. The meeting has been scheduled for October 17th starting at 8AM. The meeting will be held at the Cheney Mansion, 220 N. Euclid Avenue. A copy of the draft agenda for that meeting was distributed. Additionally, copies of the "Dementia Friendly Communities Toolkit" materials, for the "team meeting," were also distributed. Staff member Davis asked the Commission Members if they had any suggestions regarding the draft agenda.

Discussion ensued between the Commission members regarding the reason for the community "team" meeting and the draft agenda for said meeting. Several Commission members expressed concern that there does not appear to be a clear statement regarding what the goal of the October 17th meeting is and what role they, as Commission members, will play at said meeting.

Staff member Davis explained that the community "team" meeting was basically a public convening that would allow Oak Park residents and

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community stakeholders to hear about and discuss the Dementia Friendly undertaking, educate themselves about “Lived Experiences” and begin the process of putting together a community-wide action plan and volunteer team.

Commission members suggested that the “Break-Out” brainstorming session, as indicated on the draft meeting agenda, was not long enough. Davis said that he would take that recommendation back to Director Grossman.

A question arose regarding what role the Aging in Place Commission would play in the October meeting. Staff member Davis stated that attendance at the meeting and participating in the break-out sessions at said meeting would be very important for members of the Commission. There would be an opportunity for Chairman Taylor to participate in the “Panel Discussion” portion of the meeting. There may be additional roles that Commissioners can play that may be discussed at their September meeting. Commission members expressed a desire to play as significant a role as possible at the October 17th meeting.

- B. **Age Friendly Community** – Several Commission members discussed and debated their individual understanding of the differences between a Dementia Friendly Community and an Age Friendly Community. One Commissioner described the age friendly effort as “broader” than the dementia friendly effort. Another Commissioner described the age friendly effort as “community centered” while the dementia friendly effort is “person centered.”

Staff member Davis said that both recognized efforts are interrelated with the potential of providing productive initiatives to the benefit of Oak Park residents. Further, Davis updated the Commission on the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus’ “Age Friendly Community” initiative. There will be a Caucus meeting regarding this topic that Director Grossman and/or Chairperson Lance will update the Commission on in September. A question arose regarding what the purpose of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus was as an organization. Staff member Davis answered that question.

- C. **Chair Report** – Acting Chair Fillmore lead a discussion regarding the Commissions existing and future “work plan.” Commissioners expressed a desire to hold a special, separate Commission meeting between now and the regularly scheduled September meeting. The singular topic on the special meeting’s agenda would be the “2020 work plan.” Staff member Davis said he would communicate this request to both Chairman Taylor and Director Grossman. He explained that he was unsure of the availability of meeting

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dates because of potential schedule conflicts.

Commissioners then spent some time brainstorming about various potential programs, educational seminars and other activities that the Commission could explore facilitating. Staff member Davis explained that it was not too late to explore instituting an awards program, as indicated on the 2019 work plan. Commissioners expressed general support for this effort and Davis stated that he would discuss with Director Grossman.

Further, Commission members expressed a desire to facilitate a meeting or workshop regarding accessible living for seniors. Staff member Davis explained that the DCS Neighborhood Services Division regularly holds workshops for landlords and condo associations with varying educational topics. If the Commission is interested, Davis and Director Grossman could explore the possibility of the Commission holding a workshop, with the assistance of the Neighborhood Services Division that would provide landlords and condo associations with information on accessibility. It was agreed that this idea could be further explored at the next Commission meeting.

D. Other Business

Adjournment: Commissioner Teclaw moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mirel. The motion passed.

Prepared by Cameron Davis, Assistant Director, Development Customer Services