

**Commission on Aging Minutes**  
**October 4, 2017**  
**3 p.m. – 5 p.m.**  
Sustainacenter, 704 E. Boulder Street

In attendance: CJ Moore, Carrie Schillinger, Nathaniel Gilmore, Angie Vehlewald, Rita Fitzpatrick, Jan Martin, Aubrey Day, Marie Meintz, Mike McCarson, Janet Lockhart, Claire Anderson, Erica Liljestrand, Lorri Orwig, Sabrina Cotta

**Call to Order 3:02 pm**

**Welcome & Introductions**

- Roundtable introductions
- Connie Johnson excused from today's meeting for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- Sara Vaas (alternate) excused from today's meeting

**Citizen Comment**

No public comment

**Updates**

*Sabrina Cotta*

- AARP Affordable Housing and Livable Communities Conference, October 5, 2017 in Denver  
Claire, Sabrina, Carrie are attending with others
- Volunteer Focus Event, October 17<sup>th</sup> 1 to 4 p.m., City Council Chambers  
Mayor and Council President will discuss budget & strategic plan, ethics briefing  
Encourage everyone to attend
- Public Hearing on Budget – Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, City Council Chambers  
Proposed budget is up on city website – has to be completed by end of the year. Final decision – first meeting in December.  
Comments on mayors proposed plan – have your voice heard by City staff and Council at this public hearing  
Our deadline to make comments to Aubrey is one week before public meeting
- If you need to add items to the agenda, be excused etc., Aubrey is the point of contact  
Aubrey's contact information: [aubreyday@elpasoco.com](mailto:aubreyday@elpasoco.com)

**Presentation: Jan Martin – Age Friendly Report**

March 2016 – Colorado Springs joined the Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities. Jan Martin served as Facilitator for Innovations in Aging (IIAC). 2015 IIAC published Aging in the Pikes

Peak Region which informed the Age Friendly work. 10,000 people/day turn 65 in the US. In Pikes Peak Region – Over 65 population is projected to grow by 179%, over 85 is projected to grow by 337% by 2040. Age Friendly helps make sure our community is a great place for all ages. Over 100 participants in Age Friendly process. Each committee recommended 3-5 goals. 8 Domains of Livability: Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Communication & Information, Respect & Social Inclusion, Civic Participation & Employment, Community Support & Health Services, Outdoor Spaces & Buildings. Recommendations underway include: Reps on Comp Plan (Plan COS), Transit offers ½ off fares for seniors, BBB Age Friendly Business Designation (62 Age Friendly Businesses currently), Mountain States Employers Council Age Friendly Employer Designation, ONEN iVillage. Number one recommendation from all committees was to create a Commission on Aging. Others were: intergenerational activities, transportation, marketing & communication plan for services, volunteer opportunities. Other opportunities: Free city-wide WiFi, Grandparents Park, FREE Bus passes for seniors, Retail space for senior-focused businesses, Age and ability ratings for parks and trails.

#### **Discussion: Commission on Aging & Age Friendly Report – Gaps to Policy Change**

- Sponsorship for funding park benches (Age Friendly Businesses?)
- Have a conversation about/catalogue what exists & whats already being done
- Skype presentation on recommendations from Walk Audit with Dix.Hite + Partners consultants
- HBA is very interested in helping on Housing portion of plan

Approach different city departments to share with us:

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings—Karen Paulus, ADA Coordinator

Transportation—Craig Blewitt, PPRTA

Social Participation—Connie Johnson, Mary Swantek

Community Support & Health Services—Aimee Cox, Terri Richus, Health Department?

Respect & Social Inclusion—Senior Victims Advocate

Housing – HBA

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings recommendations:

- Review City of Colorado Springs Comprehensive Plan update for Age- friendly concepts and initiatives
- Advocate for two or more highly utilized parks using age-friendly techniques by (insert year)
- Advocate for creations of 2 or more park pilot projects incorporating age friendly concepts in two or more under-utilized parks by (insert year)
- Advocate for the adoption of a trail rating system available on the city website identifying city trails as easy medium, and difficult using Age-Friendly focus by (insert year)
- Identify senior friendly parks and advise they be listed on the city website by (insert year)
- Audit of Age Friendly-ness of City Buildings

- Heat mapping of where highest concentration of 65+ residents are & match up to parks, transit, Age Friendly Businesses, hospitals, community/senior centers?

#### Transportation recommendations:

- Advocate for increased use of Senior Ambassadors Program by tying advertising and volunteer opportunities with special events/ open house by the transportation department
- Systematically review bus stops for ADA compliance
- Implement a senior educational program with transportation to educate seniors on convenience of bus use.
- Support and advocate for a more comprehensive transportation plan
- Creativity in evening and weekend service

#### Housing recommendations:

- Advocate for zoning that allows senior additions on current homes and alternative senior focused dwelling units
- Advocate for incentives for builders, investors and utilities to use age-friendly concepts by waiving or reducing development fees and streamlining permit processes
- Advocate for the education of senior on home modifications and retrofit options to allow for aging in place
- Advocate for innovative and intergenerational housing opportunities and alternative housing options
- Advocate that affordable senior housing be a top priority when disposing of city owned property
- Assess “affordability” i.e. income and universal design options

#### Social Participation recommendations:

- Advocate for and support the YMCA in a wider distribution of senior programming throughout the City of Colorado Springs
- Advocate for a city webpage (or utilize Network of Care website) that lists activities/organizations for seniors – or rebranding of existing resource
- Investigate 1 Click, 1 Call for senior resources/senior navigator
- Volunteer portal

#### **Items for next month/Member Updates**

- Invite Comprehensive Plan team (Carl Schueler) to next meeting
- Carrie Schillinger will present on Area Agency on Aging at next meeting
- Debrief on AARP Affordable Housing and Livable Communities Conference

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 3:00 – 5:00 pm at Sustainacenter, 704 E. Boulder Street**

**Adjourn 5:02 pm**