

Colorado Springs Commission on Aging Minutes

July 8, 2020

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Virtually Via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Carrie Schillinger (Chair), Lorri Orwig, CJ Moore, Connie Johnson, Claire Anderson, Mittie Pedraza, Cleasther Marchman, David McKeown, Aubrey Day, Kelsie Heermans, David Geislinger (Council Liaison)

Excused:

Absent:

Guests: Leo Brasuel, Lori McGinnis, Erica Carter

Staff: Michael Montgomery

Call to Order 3:05 pm

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of minutes from June Meeting

Lorri Orwig moves

Connie Johnson seconds

All approve

Citizen Comment

Leo Brasuel – would like to keep up to date on LTC work. Claire will send Leo's email to Carrie to be included on distribution list.

Commissioner Updates

Claire Anderson – welcome to Leo Brasuel! New Fellow at Innovations in Aging Collaborative

Coronavirus/COVID-19 impact on nursing home residents – Office of the LTC Ombudsman Lori McGinnis – Lead LTC Ombudsman

Discussion:

Residents have been confined to their rooms due to COVID

If they haven't had COVID for two weeks, they can leave the room and go into the hallway where their room is

Impact of isolation on residents is a real concern

Residents being treated for depression and anxiety when they weren't being treated for that pre-COVID

Residents married for 50/60 years and haven't been able to touch their loved one since March State did implement an outdoor visitation policy – with masks and social distancing

Action:

What can community do to assist? Reach out to different communities and adopt residents who do not have family or friends. Send cards, care packages, be a pen pal, bring a hamburger and fries! Something different and something to help prevent isolation and depression.

Kristi Valentino at Aspen Living Center would be a great person to reach out to – they have been interested in the past. Lori will share ideas of other facilities that may be interested.

LTC Ethics Committee – First Friday of each month at AAA at 7:30 am (now on Zoom)
Carrie can share the link if interested

Other commission business**a. Membership/Election of officers 2020-21**

- On August 22, 2020 – Commissioners completing first term will be: Aubrey Day, Lorri Orwig, Cleather Marchman
- Carrie Schillinger will not return for a second term, Aubrey Day will not seek a second term
- Election of officers in August
- City Council will appoint Commissioners to fill open spots
- Two alternates will move up, and we will have one position to fill

b. Other commission business – Move Commission on Aging from City Council to PPACG

- After the Age Friendly plan was released, PPACG was approached to be the home of a Commission on Aging
- That invitation was declined by then ED of PPACG
- Commission became a Commission of the City of Colorado Springs
- There has since been a disconnect between PPACG and City Commission on Aging
- Have not reestablished link between PPACG and City
- New Director leadership at PPACG and Area Agency on Aging
- Certain amount of work that the Commission on Aging has wanted to do but been unable to do because we are an advisory group to the City
- Andy Gunning and Jody Barker, along with Jill Gaebler, contacted Carrie to reconsider the base of operations from the City to PPACG for support and for possible and potential expansion to become more regional – more than just the City
- IIAC has contemplated expanding the Age Friendly program outside of the City limits to touch Falcon, Monument, Fountain, etc.
- PPACG is very interested in having the Commission on Aging be a part of their organizational structure
- They are interested in giving us resources, allowing access to social media, promotion and dissemination of information, printed collateral, funding, energy around wanting to take the Commission and making the work we want to do a reality i.e. subcommittee work – 16 member governments in their jurisdiction
- Same sunshine laws apply

- Councilwoman Gaebler is the rep from Council to PPACG
 - Councilman Geislinger has been talking to Andy Gunning regularly about aging issues
 - Colorado Springs doesn't have resources or jurisdiction to do what needs to be done on aging
 - County has Public Health, Adult Protective Services, Aging Services
 - Makes a lot of sense – aging issues don't stop in 200 sq. miles of Colorado Springs – it's a regional issue
 - Difficult to get things done at City
 - Would we need to work with each member government/municipality to pass policy changes? Would that make it more difficult? Does it give us an 'in' to introduce the work that the City started to other municipalities?
 - IIAC Board is concerned about losing connection to City Council and Mayor Suthers
 - Would Commission on Aging move totally to PPACG or would there still be a City Commission on Aging?
 - City Council regularly has updates and presentations from other organizations – nothing would prevent Commission on Aging from presenting from PPACG to City Council and make recommendations
 - Encourage dialogue about the move
 - Mayor Suthers is in favor of the Commission becoming part of PPACG – maintain current membership
 - Wouldn't leave any Commissioners behind – process would have to be defined by City Council and PPACG - currently you must reside in the City to be on the Commission – this would allow broader membership
 - Goal is to get it done by end of calendar year
 - This is in the jurisdiction of the County to do the things we want to get done, not in the City jurisdiction
 - At the end of the day, does it benefit more seniors?
 - Like the idea that we can include more seniors outside of Colorado Springs area
 - Carrie will let know about our conversation to Jill Gaebler, Andy Gunning, Jody Barker
 - Claire will let IIAC Board know about our conversation
- c. Subcommittee work
- Policy (Aubrey and Vanessa)
 - Outreach (Lorri)
 - Advocacy (David)
 - Does it make sense to put energy into subcommittees given potential shift to PPACG
 - Tying subcommittee work back to the age friendly plan will validate the work of the commission on will anchor the work to the City event if we do make the shift
 - Claire and Leo will look at remaining Age Friendly action items that could be done by the Commission
 - Give minutes to Claire for next meeting about any subcommittee work that needs to be recorded

Other

Next meeting(s):

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 5, 2020, 3:00 – 5:00 pm VIRTUALLY via Microsoft Teams

Adjournment 4:28 pm