

Colorado Springs Commission on Aging Minutes

August 5, 2020

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Virtually Via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Carrie Schillinger (Chair), Lorri Orwig, Cleasther Marchman, Vanessa Obetz, Kelsie Heermans, Connie Johnson, CJ Moore, Claire Anderson, David Geislinger (Council Liaison)

Excused: Aubrey Day, Mittie Pedraza

Absent: David McKeown

Guests: Max, Liam, Erica Carter, Melissa Marts, Jody Barker, Leo Brasuel

Staff: Carly Hoff

Call to Order 3:03 pm

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of minutes from July Meeting

CJ moves

Lorri seconds

All approve

Citizen Comment

Commissioner Updates

Vanessa spoke with Aubrey Day and will be sending an email to Carrie and Carly soon.

ReToolCOS and other housing related issues - Colorado Springs Pro-Housing Partnership

Discussion:

ReTool COS

Comprehensive look at COS Zoning Code

Allow for broadly more kinds of housing in more parts of the City

-83% is zoned for single family use

-Single family zoning drives up the cost of housing

-Limits housing options to only the most expensive type

-Restricts the overall number of housing units/housing stock

-Makes it almost impossible for supply to keep up with demand, and driving up cost

-All new construction being forced to North and East

-Increasing carbon emission

-Putting stress on infrastructure

-Restricts what a house can look like or what living arrangements could look like

-Allows more housing that is more suitable across the spectrum of ability

-Doesn't allow for flexibility for people of various degrees of ability may need

Module 1:

50 people made comments on first module supporting more permitted uses in single-family zones
Seemed to make up the vast majority of the comments

Module 2:

Next phase deals with Design Standards including parking requirements
Parking standards are high and strict which drives up the cost of development

Module 3:

Procedures
Streamline procedures

Action:

Stay attentive to when modules are coming out and make comments in support of the changes to the modules
You can receive the CSPHP emails which keep everyone updated on ReTool happenings

National AAA Survey Report Observations – Melissa Marts, AAA

Discussion:

From National Association of Area Agencies in Aging
Good news – across the country they had a 79% rate
Top concerns- social isolation and housing
Continue to gain traction and raise concerns – something for us all to take note of
25% of AAA across the country offer some kind of housing assistance
8% of AAA across the country have an apartment complex or a place they house people
47% of AAA are not part of a livable community project – proud of our Age Friendly project here!
67% did work around social services and transportation
Arts and culture, business and retail, banking and financial services – growing areas in the national Age Friendly work
Important to grow and expand home modification and repair programs/aging in place work

Action:

<https://www.n4a.org/publications> to learn more

Building a Bridge with the Area Agency on Aging - Jody Barker, Area Agency on Aging

Discussion:

Been working in Senior services since 1998
Has served as a member of the Innovations In Aging Board
Passion about reducing senior isolation
Jody served as Chair of the Age Friendly Social Participation Domain

Great opportunities to bring the Commission within the structure of the AAA

Expansion benefits, support benefits, many other benefits

How can we stay different from other citizen advisory committees? How can we make a difference for the city but also the region?

By bringing the COA (Commission on Aging) on board and having a separate focus it opens opportunity in serving our region

Now is the time while we have the right people helping to move this forward

Now is a time to consider what a budget might look like for the COA?

Financial Cycles:

PPACG January 1

State July 1

Federal September 1

PPACG is membership organization of 16 jurisdiction

Dues help support projects, most of funding is Older Americans Act and Older Coloradans Act funds, can also do grant writing

Can look out into the greater region they serve

Opportunity for collaboration across region, state and federal level – staff reports out around opportunities and programs going on around the state – lots of idea flows and potential for collaboration

Opportunity to affect policy and liaise with state

Breadth of information we would have access to

This still serves the City, just a broader approach to service of the older adults in our region

COA would have a staff liaison from PPACG

Regional structure allows for change in membership size if needed – PPACG can own the size and scale

Action:

City Council would make this decision – dissolve the COA and explain the benefits of dissolution and the move

Will appear on Council agenda where they could take citizen comments

Two readings to go on consent calendar to be voted on as a whole

PPACG would bring this as an action item to their Board of Directors – go for review and recommend, and second meeting to review and approve? Protocol doesn't require it, only public input opportunity on the front end

PPACG ensure staff, RAC and Board are aware of this move, invite public comment

Jody Barker – any questions, reach out

Membership/Election of Officers

Currently 10 members and 2 alternates

We will share when Council and PPACG might vote on the move

Cleather, Carrie, Lorri and Aubrey are rolling off

We will not try to fill members until we know more about the move and what that process looks like

If both alternates would like to join the Commission (Vanessa and Elisa) officially, let Carly know and it can move through Council.

Claire will continue in the role of Secretary

Interested in serving as Chair or Vice Chair?

Elisa interested in serving as Vice Chair

Mittie was unable to attend, but interested in Chair position

Mittie Pedraza, Chair

Elisa Santos, Vice-Chair

CJ moves to approve, Connie seconds

All approve

Thank you so much to Carrie and Lorri

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2020, 3:00 – 5:00 pm VIRTUALLY via Microsoft Teams

Adjournment 4:35 pm