

Minutes
College Park Aging-in-Place Task Force
June 4, 2015
City Hall

Attendees

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Barnes, Helen - Dist. 3	<u>X</u>	
Blumenthal, Judy - Dist. 1	<u>X</u>	
Brennan, PJ. - Dist. 2		<u>X</u>
Dorsch, David - Dist. 3	<u>X</u>	
Ealley, Lisa - Dist. 1	<u>X</u>	
Ireton, Chuck - Dist. 2	<u>X</u>	
Kabir, Fazlul - Dist. 1		<u>X</u>
Keer, David - Dist. 1		<u>X</u>
Mitchell, Denise. - Dist. 4	<u>X</u>	
Nowlin, Darlene – Dist. 4		<u>X</u>
Sanders, Cory – Dist. 1		<u>X</u>
Wojahn, Patrick - Dist. 1	<u>X</u>	

Also present:

Laura Salers, Secretary
Christal Batey, City of Greenbelt

Call to Order

At 6:54 pm, Denise Mitchell called the meeting to order. Ms. Mitchell suspended the agenda and introduced Christal Batey, Director of Senior Services for the City of Greenbelt.

Ms. Batey presented a history of the Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program (GAIL). It began in the early 1990's after a group of residents approached the Greenbelt City Council with concerns over the lack of support services for senior residents. From this meeting, the Greenbelt City Council formed a task force.

The Greenbelt Task Force collected surveys from their residents for 6 months. They surveyed residents on Election Day, had volunteers canvass the city door to door, attended all club meetings in the city and involved all churches in Greenbelt. The Greenbelt church leaders meet regularly and were happy to support the GAIL program because it reduced the number of requests it was getting for support from older parishioners. They had 600+ responses to their survey. The top findings from the survey were:

- 1) Residents didn't have the information they needed until they were in crisis mode. The GAIL program's priority is making sure information is easy to find and readily available.
- 2) Health and wellness-related services were most requested. The GAIL program formed a community nursing program where medical/nursing students provide services such as bathing and monitoring vitals while receiving classroom credit.
- 3) Education and social programs were a top priority of respondents. Seniors asked for programs such as Medicare updates, setting up advance directives and wanted a gathering place and planned for socializing.

After two years of meetings with CEO's, group home leaders, residents and area nursing homes, the task force recommended a city sponsored Assistance in Living Program, which is now the GAIL Program.

The GAIL program is heavily supported by the Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES). GIVES is made up of approximately 150 volunteers and run by a volunteer board and administrative staff. It is recognized by the city, but is not city run.

GIVES provides Greenbelt senior residents with pet sitting, meal prep help, laundry assistance, errands, fresh weekly produce distribution and other support services. While GIVES provides non-medical support, the GAIL program provides clinical support, flu clinics, health fairs and mental health screenings. Both groups serve residents of Greenbelt only.

Ms. Batey indicated that the first year of the GAIL Program focused primarily on publicity. She attended every meeting possible to share information about the program. She submitted a weekly column in the local newspaper that shared information for seniors. She also hosted a cable show on the Greenbelt cable channel. Many county agencies have long wait lists so having a large pool of volunteers to draw from assists the GAIL Program in providing their seniors with alternatives when assistance is needed.

They have built an extensive network of partnerships with area companies, universities and charities that support the GAIL program. The program has received funds from a HUD Service Coordinator Grant of approximately \$60,000 annually for the past 8 years.

Ms. Batey formed an *Aging in Place Prince George's* group and hosts a monthly meeting for information exchange and networking. The group has grown to include representatives from Hyattsville, North Brentwood, Mt. Rainier, Bowie and two College Park resident run groups. The groups are both city sponsored and resident run ad hoc groups. Ms. Batey invited a representative from the College Park City Task Force to attend as well. It was determined that College Park Task Force member Helen Barnes will represent the Task Force at these monthly meetings.

During the discussion, it was suggested that the City of College Park look into this grant for staff for both Attick Towers and Spellman House. If each program was awarded a grant, the city funds would then become available for other supportive senior duties, such as a full time outreach person.

Ms. Mitchell thanked Ms. Batey before Ms. Batey left at 8:22 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 11, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Ms. Blumenthal made a motion to approve as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ealley and unanimously approved.

Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Ms. Barnes represented the Task Force at a meeting of the Aging in Place Ad Hoc Committee. This community led group has split into two groups. Carol Nezzo has left the Ad Hoc Committee and is working independently on city senior issues. The Ad Hoc Committee has been renamed, Explorations in Aging. Their goal is to inform and educate the aging members of the community. To assist them in reaching this goal, Explorations in Aging plan on hosting two informational and exchange meetings, maintain a dialogue with the City's AIP Task Force and maintain a partner's contact list. At this time, the Explorations in Aging group does not plan to share this list with outside groups.

City of College Park Task Force Survey

The survey will be published in the upcoming issue of the Municipal Scene. Language will be edited to include the new deadline of June 30, 2015. After the deadline, the Task Force will consider submitting an open letter of thanks to the residents for their support and participation in the survey.

Discussion regarding the tabulation of data from the surveys was tabled for a meeting after the survey deadline.

Announcements

Ms. Mitchell suggested that the Task Force create a Facebook page to help spread the word about the work of the Task Force.

Mr. Wojahn distributed copies of a course proposal from a University of MD professor, Lindsey Anderson. The course requires students to collect narratives and is seeking the cooperation and collaboration of the Task Force. The Task Force had many questions regarding their specific role and nature of the narratives. On behalf of the Task Force, Mr. Wojahn will invite Professor Anderson to come and speak about the course and her expectations for Task Force participation.

Ms. Barnes distributed copies of the Source Book and the Prince George's Senior Provider Network Resource Directory. She will arrange to have copies of Sourcebook in City Hall.

July Meeting

Ms. Mitchell will send an email to the Task Force members to schedule the July meeting.

Adjournment

Ms. Barnes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ireton seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.