

APPROVED Minutes  
College Park Aging-in-Place Task Force  
February 1, 2016  
City Hall

**Attendees**

**Members**

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Barnes, Helen - Dist. 3		<u>  X  </u> (called in)
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>	
Kabir, Fazlul - Dist. 1	<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:** Thelma Martin, Senior’s Place; Carol Nezzo, Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
*Director of Youth and Family Services*, Peggy Higgins, Staff Liaison; *Contract Secretary*, Laura Salers

**Call to Order**

Mr. Dorsch called the meeting to order at 6:53 p.m. Ms. Barnes participated via telephone.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the January 4, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Kabir. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brennan and unanimously approved.

**Review of City’s Current Senior Services and Unmet Requests to City Senior Program**

An updated draft of the final report was distributed to Task Force members. The report will focus on the reported needs of the senior residents to age in place, the services currently available from the City and local agencies and then finish with recommendations of the Task Force. Back up documents to support the findings and recommendations will be provided in the appendices.

The Task Force noted it is important to provide seniors with available resource contact information through methods other than the internet. A cable channel for senior news could fill the gap left by the Gazette newspaper.

Mr. Brennan will reanalyze the transportation needs to make sure it’s conceptualized correctly with the survey results.

Ms. Barnes asked Ms. Higgins if her office could provide the Task Force with statistics regarding requests for services over a period of time. Specifically, what types of services are being requested and how

many requests are being made. Ms. Higgins shared that the majority of requests are for transportation needs and that she would be happy to pull statistics as to the types of trips that were requested and provided by her office.

### **What City Seniors Tell Us would help Them Stay in Their Home (Survey Review)**

The survey found a great need for assistance with the upkeep of homes. This led the Task Force into a discussion about the formation of a volunteer force or establishing a volunteer database. After legal clarifications and insurance/liability questions are worked out, this could be the link needed to bring residents together with providers of the requested services. This is a complicated issue that needs further exploration and discussion. Whether it's City driven or taken on by a civic group, there needs to be a designated hub to coordinate requests for services.

### **Brainstorming Task Force Recommendations**

A recommendation that the City explore options for developing coordinated volunteer resources to assist seniors with needs such as housework, yard work, household repairs and meals will be considered.

The Task Force final recommendations will be paired with the survey results based upon what the seniors will need in the future, not just current unmet needs.

A possible recommendation may be to consider expanding the distance threshold for City provided transportation and providing resources to seniors for other transportation options if their request is outside the constraints of City services.

The Task Force may recommend that the City explore County and State financial opportunities which would be used to provide transportation for medical needs of our seniors.

Several Task Force members are in favor of making the recommendation for a standing committee because there are details and programs that need further exploration. How the Task Force recommendations will be implemented is up to the City Council. It may be that they will form a standing committee or perhaps the recommendations would be handled by existing City resources. The charge of a standing committee would need to be clear so that it doesn't duplicate the efforts of existing City resources. An alternative would be to recommend additional financial support be directed to the City's Senior Services office for the purpose of hiring a coordinator to handle the need requests of the seniors and to implement some of the other Task Force recommendations.

### **Review of Documents**

The Task Force's final report will be specific and address issues brought up by residents in the survey. The Task Force members were asked to compile any substantive comments for changes and edits to the draft report before the next meeting in March.

### **Identify Report Format**

The report will be short and concise with the details of resources and a copy of the Task Force Resolution in the appendices.

Mr. Kabir made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Wojahn. The next meeting will take place on March 7, 2016 and will be chaired by Ms. Barnes. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.