

Approved Minutes
College Park Aging-in-Place Task Force
February 2, 2015
City Hall

Attendees

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Blumenthal, Judy - Dist. 1	<u>X</u>	
Brennan, PJ - Dist. 2	<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:

David Dorsch, College Park Resident
Peggy Higgins, Staff Liaison
Laura Salers, AIP Task Force Secretary

Call to Order

Denise Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

Agenda Items

Introductions

Ms. Mitchell asked Task Force members and guests to introduce themselves.

Administrative Item- Selection of Committee Meeting Date and Time

Ms. Mitchell led a discussion with the Task Force members regarding their availability for Task Force meetings. It was agreed upon by those present to meet on the first Monday of each month, at 6:45 PM in City Hall. The meetings are expected to last approximately one and one-half hours. Staff Liaison, Peggy Higgins will check with the City regarding availability of meeting space.

Review Charge to the Committee

Ms. Mitchell read the City Council resolution establishing the College Park Aging-in-Place Task Force, adopted by the Council April 8, 2014. Discussion followed each bulleted item in the resolution.

*Identify existing City resources that support our aging population:

Ms. Higgins detailed available City resources for seniors. The City's seniors program provides social programs, transportation assistance, administrative support and day trips.

*Identify existing County resources that support our aging population:

Ms. Mitchell said that the County has information about their services on their website. She offered that Task Force members can familiarize themselves with this information for discussion at a future meeting. The Task Force will consider having a representative from the County attend a future meeting to speak about the resources they provide.

*Identify needs of the City's aging population who desire to age-in-place:

There was a lengthy discussion regarding this item and whether senior residents living in their own homes are currently being served by City resources.

The discussion included publicity of City services and Ms. Higgins said the seniors program is announced in the Municipal Scene, on the City website, and in the Resident Handbook as well as periodically sent to local churches for their church bulletin.

Gaps in city transport services were also mentioned. Ms. Higgins shared that the City's seniors programs only transport to local medical appointments and drivers can only provide curb-to-curb service, rather than door-to-door services. They are not able to physically leave the bus to help clients get into their doctors' offices or into their homes.

Ms. Ealley, of the College Park Meals on Wheels program, shared that 15 or ¼ of the clients being served by College Park Meals on Wheels reside in College Park. She feels there are many more College Park residents that could benefit from meal delivery.

*Identify gaps between current resources and the needs of the aging-in-place population:

There was discussion regarding the need for more transportation support services, assistance with medical billing disputes, social services paperwork, home safety issues (ramps, bathroom handrails, lighting), legal services and food/nutrition services.

*Identify and research potential strategies that the City could pursue to address the gaps between the available resources and current needs for the aging-in-place.

The Task Force could develop a survey to gather information from our seniors about what they feel they need to age-in-place.

Ideas suggested:

Creating a referral service would allow residents to recommend someone who could benefit from a City resource.

Contacting local churches to see what kind of support they offer their seniors.

Starting a volunteer bank so people with different skillsets can be called upon to help where needed.

Creating a College Park Senior Center is an idea that has long been of interest, so seniors would have a safe place to come, receive services and socialize. There are successful centers in neighboring communities. The Task Force may invite them to come and share their successes at

a future meeting. It was noted that the Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has shown interest in providing senior programs during the day within College Park.

Establishing a grant program would provide City residents with financial assistance for home modifications that will help them age-in-place.

Discussion of possible Work Plan

The Task Force's first priority is to identify College Park aging-in-place residents and learn what they say they need to stay in their homes. Ms. Higgins will begin to draft a survey with input from the other Task Force members via email.

Members discussed the need for a budget for the Task Force.

Next Steps

Ms. Mitchell asked Ms. Higgins to begin to formulate questions for the survey. Senior residents will be the target audience for the survey. The Task Force will look into the legal use of voter registration information to help identify aging-in-place residents of the City. If unable to use the list, the seniors program mailing list, Meals on Wheels client list, City Council Representative list serves and the City website will all be considered as ways to get the survey distributed. Also considered will be volunteers and seniors program staff contacting seniors by telephone.

Ms. Mitchell reminded the Task Force members that according to the resolution, a report was due to the City Council January 2015. The Task Force will finalize the survey as soon as possible and determine to whom it will be sent. The survey results, along with a list of service requests received by seniors program staff, will help the Task Force determine the most urgent needs not being met by current resources.

Adjournment

The first meeting of the College Park Aging-in-Place Task force adjourned at 8:15 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2015 at 6:45 PM, City Hall.