

APPROVED Minutes
College Park Aging-in-Place Task Force
January 4, 2016
City Hall

Attendees

Members

	<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>	
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:

Director of Youth and Family Services, Peggy Higgins, Staff Liaison; Contract Secretary, Laura Salers

Call to Order

Ms. Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

Ms. Higgins passed out copies of the Agenda, updated Membership List, Draft Minutes from the last meeting, Draft Report and additional text from Task Force members which had not yet been incorporated into the Draft Report.

Approval of Minutes

After brief discussion and a few changes, the minutes were approved as amended. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Dorsch. It was seconded by Mr. Brennan and unanimously approved.

Old Business

- 1) *Question submitted by David Dorsch: Aging in Place Survey Results – How much direction should the Task Force’s survey results have in guiding the work of the Task Force? Survey’s top 5 needs: Transportation to doctors’ appointments (61.21%), Transportation Other (54.21%), Help with Housework (58.41%), Social Activities (41.12%), Phone Calls to See How You’re Doing (33.64%)*

Mr. Dorsch led a brief discussion concerning how much weight the survey results should carry in the final report for the City Council. The Task Force appreciates the time taken by residents to complete the survey and feels the top 5 concerns should be addressed. Mr. Brennan suggests the Task Force use the survey results to develop recommendations in the report for both short and long term goals of meeting the needs of aging residents in College Park.

2) *Review of STATUS of Report Assignments:* Mr. Brennan noted that there was some information already in the Draft Report document online and as members submitted their reports to him, he dropped them into to their respective sections of the Draft Report. The collective information needs to be reviewed and edited as the Task Force sees fit.

a) Section I – Introduction – What is Aging in Place? Lisa Ealley/Judy Blumenthal

Ms. Ealley reported that she and Ms. Blumenthal collected resources from the web and submitted a summary for their section as assigned. They were unaware that information had already existed in the google doc Draft Report. Ms. Ealley and Ms. Blumenthal suggested that they needed additional time to review the existing google doc information and finalize the report for their section. Ms. Ealley left the meeting at 7:10 pm.

It was agreed that since the Task Force members were seeing most of the reports for the first time, instead of proofing and finalizing the content at this meeting, the Task Force will conduct a general overview of the concepts included in each section and identify gaps. Comments by Task Force members during this discussion include:

- Keep the charge of the Task Force in the forefront as the report is drafted.
- Specific program recommendations such as possible resources to address issues like transportation are too detailed for the Council's charge to Task Force.
- Aging in Place definition and language needs to be clarified and agreed on by everyone.
- The existing information and member reports need edited for clarity, gaps and redundancies.
- The Final Report should be streamlined and provide recommendations in a short concise manner.
- Case studies of neighboring Aging in Place programs can be presented in an appendix or a resource section at the end of the report.
- The survey provided the Task Force with the needs of College Park seniors. The Task Force can compare the results to the City services currently provided and make recommendations for what is needed to fill in the gaps.

b). Section II – What are existing resources? PJ Brennan/Helen Barnes/Fazlul Kabir

Mr. Brennan submitted his report and included information from the last two Explorations in Aging meetings, county resources, local publications, University resources and volunteer programs. Ms. Barnes will help Mr. Brennan gather statistics from County services to illustrate the volume being utilized by College Park seniors. Mr. Brennan also provided Census data, which he will break down further to include more age ranges. A suggestion was made that resources not directly relating to College Park Aging in Place needs be placed in the appendix.

Mr. Kabir contributed a report regarding community organizations. These organizations are great at disseminating information and help supplement City resources while growing the volunteer base in the City.

c). Section III –What are the Unmet Needs? Patrick Wojahn/Dave Dorsch

Mr. Wojahn used the survey results to draft his report for this section. He noted that the second highest way seniors reported receiving information was via the Gazette newspaper.

With the absence of the Gazette, there is a deeper communications gap which needs to be addressed.

Mr. Dorsch emphasized the reported needs for transportation services and home maintenance.

d) Section IV – How Can the City Improve/Grow Resources: Helen Barnes/Judy Blumenthal

Ms. Barnes submitted a report focusing on potential online resources available for residents. Written communication of these resources needs to be made available.

Ms. Blumenthal shared resources from the University of Maryland that would benefit our Aging in Place seniors.

3) Discussion of Report Assignments to Date/Submissions:

Ms. Barnes asked if there was any more discussion on the Draft Report. Mr. Kabir suggested adding a recommendation to the Draft Report requesting that the City Council consider forming a standing Aging in Place Committee. A standing committee would monitor the process of the Task Force recommendations and also help implement some of the recommendations.

Mr. Wojahn announced that he received a copy of the syllabus for University of Maryland Professor Lindsey Anderson's communications course. Professor Anderson asked for feedback from the Task Force regarding her class, which collects oral histories from College Park residents. Mr. Wojahn will forward a copy electronically for the Task Force members to review.

Mr. Brennan will add the additional reports received today into the Draft Report document. Based on the discussion, he will move items, identified as appendices, to the back of the document. He will strike items identified by the Task Force. Before the next meeting, everyone will refine their sections based upon the discussions tonight, focusing on recommendations and resources that relate to the gaps in unmet needs brought to light by the survey results.

The next meeting will take place on February 1, 2016 and will be chaired by Mr. Dorsch. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.