

Senior Resources Commission
Dickinson Hall
Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 12, 2018

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Steven Potsic opened the meeting at 1:00pm

2. **Roll Call:**

Commission Members

Steven Potsic-Chair **P**

Mary Jo Davis **A**

Mark Dillon **P**

Sally Kelly **A**

Carol Champ **A**

Tom Sullivan **P**

Gale Strenger Wayne **P**

City Council Liaison

Prue Beidler **P** (left @ 2:05pm, returned @ 2:50pm)

Staff

Sally Swarthout, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry **A**

Jill Becker, Senior Resources Manager **P**

Janet Fryer, Senior Advocate **P**

Tricia Schwall, Program Manager **P** (arrived at 1:05pm)

Tara Purtell, Administrative Assistant **P**

Others Present

Margaret Abel (DH member)

Dorothy Keating (DH member)

Note: **P**=Present **A**=Absent

3. **Approval of Minutes** of the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2018

Motion

Dillon moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2018.

Strenger Wayne seconded.

Vote: 3:1

Commission approved.

4. **Opportunities for citizens to address the Senior Resources Commission on non-agenda items:** One citizen addressed the Commission about the front cover of the NewsBrief suggesting that it may be easier to add, "Lake Forest, Lake Bluff Senior Center," in addition to the title Dickinson Hall. She also mentioned that Rosalind Franklin University performs various free medical tests and suggested some could be offered at DH to encourage more visitors.
5. **Decision Making Parameters for the City Council and all Boards & Commissions**
Potsic stated that the Commission has received specific guidance from the City Council regarding parameters for decision making which was an attached document in the July SRC meeting packet. **(See Attached)**
6. **Faith in Action: Semi-Annual Report (See Full Report Attached)**
The Commission reviewed the attached midyear report for CY 2018 from FIA. Highlights include 16 new referrals, on target to meet or exceed their goal, and already 980 hours of caregiver hours provided to date. The Commission commented that it is important to recognize not only that FIA are a great service but that the level of service they provide is something that Dickinson Hall is unable to provide.

Motion

Strenger Wayne moved that the Commission has reviewed the FIA Midyear Report CY 2018 Report and approves of it.

Dillon seconded.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

7. **Presentation: Senior Advocate Semi-Annual Report (See Full Report Attached)**
Senior Advocate Fryer reported year-end report with highlights that include:
 - Meeting/speaking with 400 individuals
 - Making 900 contacts
 - Continued success with Insights on Aging Lecture Series
 - Overall positive Feedback from Survey given to 79 individuals, 59 returned
 - Special Guest Program with 17 people, 4 new
 - 2 new volunteer drivers with a total of 8 in the volunteer pool

Motion

Strenger Wayne moved that the Commission has reviewed the Senior Advocate Semi-Annual Report and approves of it.

Dillon seconded.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

8. Affordable/Available Housing Update

i. Report of the May Senior Citizens Foundation Meeting by Steve Potsic.

Potsic summarized the current status of affordable housing which included two parameters:

1. Need
 - a. Community Partners is updating its wait list to determine how many of the 47 on the list still want to be considered. To date, twelve have reapplied. Community Partners could handle logistics, eligibility, guidance and support of potential additional senior housing. CLF is impressed with CPAH and based on the information provided, the SRC believes there is a need.
2. Recommendations
 - a. The recommendations that would take place would be based on Czerniak's presentation and outlined steps to the SRC in the May SRC meeting in order for the project to move forward.

Potsic explained that the SRC has moved forward with an exploratory conversation and discussion with the Foundation (**See attached letter from SRC to the Foundation**). Also, as a follow-up the SRC is trying to arrange a meeting with the Housing Trust Board, and hopes to meet with them before the September SRC meeting. The discussion continued with a Q & A on topics asked by SRC board members.

Beidler asked Potsic what the SRC would be asking of the Foundation. Potsic replied that the SRC would be asking the Foundation to consider future funding regarding expanding senior housing with help from other community groups.

Another question was why not buy existing houses in Lake Forest and make them senior affordable housing. The reply to this was that land in Lake Forest is expensive and that by using city land the cost can be tremendously reduced.

One member asked why Czerniak referred only to the Grove Cultural Campus in the context of senior housing in LF. Potsic stated that the language in the CLF Master Plan was that the Grove Cultural Campus was a possible location for affordable senior housing and that the project seems to be more viable on the Grove Campus than anywhere else.

Beidler agreed that it makes economic sense and it is in close proximity to Dickinson Hall. The down side would be the lack of walkability to anything so additional services would need to be added.

A discussion took place between the Commission members regarding the existing senior cottages as they are successful models. Beidler suggested getting details of the models including the building costs to present the information to the Housing Trust Board. It should also be presented what Dickinson Hall and the SRC role will be regarding the project.

Beidler was asked what other property CLF owns. Her answer was the building at Everett & Waukegan Rd. The land at the Grove Campus is the last big parcel that the CLF owns.

Beidler strongly encourages 1-2 advocates from the SRC to volunteer to work on the housing section of the comprehensive plan with the CLF.

When a HTB meeting date is set, it will be determined who from the SRC will attend.

9. Annual Membership Meeting Discussion

For the past three years Dickinson Hall has hosted a Membership Meeting to give members a forum to voice their opinions and give feedback about the senior center. The first year was a controversial meeting with a high attendance, the second year was more of a welcome to Senior Resources Manager Becker with a good attendance and the third was around 15 people in attendance. The Commission discussed whether there was interest in having a Membership Meeting this year. Becker suggested not hosting this year and revisiting the discussion at the July 2019 SRC meeting. She stressed that DH staff are always available for and welcomes feedback at all times. Beidler recommends that Becker present at a City Council Meeting to speak about the center, its programs and services to the City Council and citizens of Lake Forest.

Motion

Dillon moved that the Commission does not recommend a Membership Meeting for 2018, but at this time next year the topic will be revisited in order to decide if one is needed in 2019.

Strenger Wayne seconded.

Vote: 3:1.

10. Manager's Report (See Full Report Attached)

Becker gave a highlight of the Manager's Report noting that 300+ Membership Reminder Letters will go out by the end of July. There is great feedback on the May/June NewsBrief. The Summer Solstice party was reported the best ever! New carpeting for Dickinson Hall will be the end of July and DH will be closed July 30-August 1 for the carpeting replacement and it coincides with Lake Forest Days. Dickinson Hall was in the Lake Bluff Parade and recently hosted a well-attended Rotary Breakfast. Becker gave fond farewell to City Manager Bob Kiely, who will retire in January 2019.

11. Comments by Commission members

None

12. Next Meeting: Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 1:00pm

**13. Motion to adjourn: 3:10pm Dillon moved to adjourn. Strenger Wayne seconded.
Commission approved.**

Submitted by: Tara J. Purtell

