

The City of Lake Forest
Dickinson Hall
Senior Resources Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2022

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Strenger-Wayne opened the meeting at 1:11pm. She acknowledged that former Commissioner Sheppard unexpectedly passed away. She gave thanks for all her hard work and contributions to the Senior Resources Commission (SRC). A moment of silence was taken in her memory.

Commission Members

Gale Strenger Wayne-Chair **P**

Jill Rosa **A**

Wendy McKiernan **P**

Mark Dewart **P**

Fred Montgomery **P**

City Council Liaison

Jed Morris **P**

Staff

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

Tricia Schwall, Senior Resources Manager **P**

Tara Purtell, Administrative Assistant **P**

Katie Dolan, Program Supervisor **A**

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

Guests

Joan Barott, Lake Bluff Resident

Robbie Boudreau, Executive Director Faith in Action (via Zoom call)

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Dewart moved to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2022, SRC Meeting. Commissioner McKiernan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Opportunity for citizens to address the Senior Resources Commission on Non-Agenda Items.

Joan Barott mentioned that on behalf of Margaret Abel she had a few items to speak on. First, she would like to know the determining factor of the money that comes from Lake Forest vs Lake Bluff. Second, she mentioned that Abel was upset that the coleslaw at a Bingo BBQ event had run out. Finally, she mentioned that there is a need for a loudspeaker at Shields Township.

Manager Schwall commented on the percentage that Lake Forest and Lake Bluff pay is based on membership numbers from each area specific area. There are more members that live in Lake Forest so the percentage that Lake Forest pays is higher than Lake Bluff. She also mentioned that she previously spoke with Abel regarding the food situation at the last Coffee and Conversation.

4. Faith in Action-Semi Annual Report

Executive Director of Faith in Action (FIA), Robbie Boudreau gave the semi-annual report via Zoom call. She highlighted that FIA has seen more activity and that she believes it is because they have more of a presence at Dickinson Hall.

Transportation and caregiver support remain prevalent. The transportation is a 3-tiered system with the Go-Go rides being the very popular option. It allows mobile seniors to independently call and easily get a ride.

Director Boudreau mentioned that with their Caring Circle program sometimes it is just leaving a note in someone's mailbox to let them know we know they are there. The SOWN group, which is the Supporting Older Women Network, takes place at Dickinson Hall and allows women to talk freely about real subjects. She added that FIA is very careful regarding budgeting and where everything goes.

Chair Strenger Wayne asked if she will be able to provide total hours so she will have a metric to look at the end of the year on how many hours are spent in each area. Director Boudreau answered yes to this question.

Commissioner Dewart commented that it looked like FIA is well on its way to pass goals based on the summary handout. He asked if the services are greater toward the end of the year.

Director Boudreau answered that services are much higher in the winter months.

Director Boudreau also said Dickinson Hall is by far the best run senior center in the area because of the openness to try new programs and for having the best response to Covid-19.

Manager Schwall added some detail of FIA programs that are consistently held at Dickinson Hall including Love on a Leash and SOWN. A discussion took place regarding Healthy Living programs including the suggestion of adding a Men's/Women's Health Program targeting different topics.

5. Manager's Report

Manager Schwall reported that membership is strong with 679 members, 117 of them being new members. She believes DH is on track to hit over 1,000 members like one of the recent, best previous years. A good mixture of older and younger seniors are joining/renewing.

The tuckpointing is complete and the replaster and repaint job in the Great Room was just finished. Dickinson Hall is now under the city's Building Maintenance for both interior and exterior routine maintenance and special projects. She meets with them every 2 months to discuss Dickinson Hall issues.

Alderman Morris commented that all city buildings had just been assessed and the goal is to make sure all are on a consistent level regarding maintenance.

Chair Strenger Wayne asked if the phone issue at Dickinson Hall has been resolved yet. Manager Schwall answered that it is a city-wide issue and IT is working on getting it corrected.

Manager Schwall mentioned that Lisa Brodsky was hired as the new part-time Program Assistant and Program Supervisor, Katie Dolan, has returned to work.

She also reported that all programs are going extremely well and that she will be presenting at the Rotary next Wednesday as part of her continued initiative of 100 Cups of Coffee.

Manager Schwall explained that the second interview will be conducted for the Senior Advocate position tomorrow. A discussion took place regarding the position. Manager Schwall gave a background explaining that Fryer left this past May, and the Senior Advocate position has historically been an employee of Family Services of Lake County. They have gone through the phone screening process and the interview in conjunction with Dickinson Hall, as our Foundation pays 90% of the Senior Advocate salary.

Chair Strenger Wayne added that Manager Schwall has been doing some components of the senior advocacy over the absence of the position and gave her thanks and respect for handling it.

6. Comments by Commission Members

Chair Strenger Wayne mentioned that she received a phone call from a community member who suggested that the SRC may be able to make a recommendation to the Foundation for help with burial costs. Chair Strenger Wayne said she is researching it and will bring information to the next meeting if appropriate.

Commissioner Montgomery asked if budget was on target as he referred to the previous year agenda and noticed it was an item. A discussion took place, indicating it was part of a new commissioner orientation, but a good idea to have as agenda item every 6 months to discuss.

7. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 1:00pm.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Montgomery moved to adjourn. Commissioner McKiernan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 pm.

Submitted by: Tara J. Purtell, Administrative Assistant