

The City of Lake Forest
Dickinson Hall
Senior Resources Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2021
Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Strenger-Wayne opened the meeting at 1:05pm.

Commission Members

Gale Strenger Wayne-Chair **P**

Mark Dillon **P**

Phil Hartung **P**

Jill Rosa **A**

Barbara Sheppard **P**

Ed Richardson **P**

Fred Montgomery **P**

City Council Liaison

Jed Morris **A**

Staff

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

Janet Fryer, Senior Advocate **P**

Tricia Schwall, Senior Resources Manager **P**

Tara Purtell, Administrative Assistant **P**

Katie Dolan, Program Supervisor **A**

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

Guests

Marilyn Kercher, Dickinson Hall Member

Robbie Boudreau, Executive Director of Faith in Action

2. Welcome New Commission Member

Chair Strenger-Wayne introduced new SRC members and welcomed everyone back for the first in-person meeting since the pandemic started.

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2021 SRC Meeting. Commissioner Richardson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Dickinson Hall member, Marilyn Kercher expressed her appreciation for the Dickinson Hall facility, programs and staff mentioning she has been a participating member for

several years. Chair Strenger-Wayne had staff give introductions to the SRC Commissioners.

5. Faith in Action Semi-Annual Report

Faith in Action (FIA) Executive Director, Robbie Boudreau, gave a semi-annual report update. The \$25,000 grant that is funded by Dickinson Hall (Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Senior Citizens Foundation) is critical in order for FIA to provide services. Boudreau commented that it was a robust year and even through-out the pandemic that FIA was able to continue to serve the community and provide transportation services.

Chair Strenger-Wayne asked how many volunteers are with FIA.

Executive Director Boudreau answered that there are 75 volunteers, 25 for social events and 50 drivers. FIA has a partnership with Go-Go Grandparent (Uber for seniors) and 50% of the rides take place with this group.

Commissioner Montgomery asked how FIA keeps organized and what social events they provide. Executive Director Boudreau answered that the process works as follows:

1. Referrals from hospitals, rehab centers or Dickinson Hall
2. Care Director meeting (intake)
3. Matched with volunteer (Volunteer supervised by Care Director)

Social programs include: The Roaring 90's Club which is specifically designed for older seniors (85+) where transportation is provided and a companion, if needed. Pet Therapy, Women's Discussion Group, Chair Exercise, Friendly Games (for individuals with impairment), Fridays with Friends at Patty Turner and Social Circles (highly isolated seniors who will not leave their house but will accept a porch visit and/or care package from a volunteer).

Executive Director Boudreau also mentioned that her volunteers are very creative and shared stories where volunteers have built great relationships with clients. She also specifically mentioned that the mission of FIA is for seniors to maintain their independence and have a high quality of life and that would not be possible without the support from the Dickinson Hall grant.

Commissioner Richardson asked what the unmet needs are. Executive Director Boudreau answered that escorted transportation is always going to be an ongoing unmet need along with the unavailability of counseling services for mental health.

Commissioner Hartung asked if FIA works with other outside groups/organizations. Executive Director Boudreau responded that if she receives a call asking for a particular service need she will call and vet a certain group before it is referred to the asking party. Executive Director Boudreau added that there is a great working relationship between herself and Senior Advocate Fryer.

6. Orientation and Financial Overview

Manager Schwall gave the SRC a budget report and explained the "buckets" that are Dickinson Hall's revenue and expense breakdowns. This report provided a more in depth look at the higher level funding mechanisms at Dickinson Hall.

Chair Strenger-Wayne added that as part of the orientation new binders have been created for all Commission members and a tour of Dickinson Hall will take place after the meeting for anyone interested.

7. Manager's Report

Manager Schwall gave an update on membership which is currently 670 members, which exceeds the July 2019 membership numbers of 662 members. 83 new members have joined.

Recently, Dickinson Hall has held two large parties and both have been extremely successful in attendance.

Currently the offerings held at Dickinson Hall are considered hybrid. Classes and lectures have both in-person presenters and Zoom presenters. Seniors can participate in person or watch at home via Zoom.

Manager Schwall mentioned that many compliments have been received on the library and lobby remodels. Furniture for both areas is still pending delivery. Kitchen equipment is coming in and the projected start date for the kitchen remodel is mid-August.

Manager Schwall gave a brief background about the Annual Membership Meeting. A discussion took place and the consensus was that there was not a need for a membership meeting this year. It will continue to be discussed on a yearly basis.

Commissioner Montgomery asked about the status of the Vaccine Buddies party. Manager Schwall replied that she was still waiting to hear from the group on what they have decided regarding a thank you party for their volunteers.

8. Comments by Commission Members

No comments

9. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 1:00pm.

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Sheppard motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Montgomery seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:19pm.

Submitted by: Tara J. Purtell, Administrative Assistant