

**The City of Lake Forest**  
**Dickinson Hall**  
**Senior Resources Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 12, 2022**  
**\*Remote Access Meeting\***

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Strenger-Wayne opened the meeting at 1:03pm.

**Commission Members**

Gale Strenger Wayne-Chair **P**

Mark Dillon **P**

Jill Rosa **A**

Barbara Sheppard **P**

Mark Dewart **P**

Wendy McKiernan **P**

Fred Montgomery **A**

**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

**2. Welcome New Commissioners**

Chair Strenger-Wayne acknowledged that former Commissioner Phil Hartung has now become a full-time resident of Florida and the Commission is pleased to welcome Wendy McKiernan. Commissioner McKiernan gave some brief background about herself including that she is a lifelong Lake Forest resident and retired 11 years ago from The Lake Forest Parks & Recreation Department.

Chair Strenger-Wayne also gave thanks to Commissioner Dillon who has been on the Senior Resources Commission (SRC) for several years and has made a huge contribution. The entire SRC thanked him for his service. Each Commissioner gave a brief introduction of themselves to new Commissioner McKiernan.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

*Commissioner Sheppard moved to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2022 SRC Meeting. Commissioner Dillon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

None present.

**5. Senior Advocate's Bi-Annual Update**

Chair Strenger-Wayne wished Senior Advocate Fryer the best on her retirement after 19 years with Dickinson Hall and the SRC gave a heartfelt thank you for her service to area seniors.

Senior Advocate gave her bi-annual report overview explaining that she is seeing the same numbers of individuals served as seen in previous fiscal years. The On Our Own group is also starting to see more participants like in previous years and is normalizing with average attendance.

She reported that there are some new areas of concern regarding unmet needs including escorted transportation with those of limited mobility as well as the effects that seniors are feeling on inflation. Financial stress of rent and tax bills are concerning. The Tax Assessment Freeze will move to be fully in an online format and will cause difficulties amongst seniors. Some agencies still are not fully open which include Catholic Charities and the Social Security Administration. Another concern is the lack of knowledge regarding Medicare, financial assistance, and Benefit Access. The challenge is how to educate seniors about these topics. Senior Advocate Fryer did mention that Elderwerks is a good resource guide.

**6. Manager's Report**

Manager Schwall reported that membership is performing very well with 435 renewed members. She expects to be at the same marker or even over as from last fiscal year.

She explained that the Dickinson Hall kitchen renovation is now complete with an unveiling party that was held two days last week as an open house.

The library and lobby furniture have arrived and are also complete. Tuckpointing will begin this week at Dickinson Hall.

A new Program Assistant, Lisa Brodsky, started Tuesday, May 3 to aid in the programming area including the upcoming Members' Appreciation Party on Thursday, May 26. Other events coming up include The Annual Police Picnic and the first of the Friday Night Live series.

Chair Strenger-Wayne gave compliments to Manager Schwall for quarterbacking the kitchen remodel.

Manager Schwall explained that she has started the initiative, *100 Cups of Coffee*, where she is networking with community members, business owners and service professionals to spread the word on who Dickinson Hall is and what we do by meeting for a cup of

coffee. A letter will be set out to area businesses seeking interest of individuals who might want to meet.

Chair Strenger-Wayne gave appreciation to Manager Schwall for rebranding the words, "senior center".

**7. Approval of SRC Meeting Dates**

Chair Strenger-Wayne asked for approval of the 2022/23 SRC Meeting Dates, which are held at Dickinson Hall bi-monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month from 1:00pm-2:00pm.

*Commissioner Dewart moved to approve the SRC Meeting Dates for 2022/23 (July 14, 2022, September 8, 2022, November 10, 2022, January 12, 2023, March 9, 2023, May 11, 2023). Commissioner Sheppard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**8. Comments by Commission Members**

No comments.

**9. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 1:00pm.**

**10. Adjournment**

*Commissioner Sheppard moved to adjourn. Commissioner McKiernan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 pm.*

Submitted by: Tara J. Purtell, Administrative Assistant