

**The City of Lake Forest**  
**Dickinson Hall**  
**Senior Resources Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 13, 2023**  
**1:00pm**

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

Chair Strenger-Wayne opened the meeting at 1:04pm.

**Commission Members**

Gale Strenger Wayne-Chair **P**

Jill Rosa **A**

Wendy McKiernan **P**

Mark Dewart **A**

Fred Montgomery **P**

Denny Hermann **P**

Jean Manning **P**

**City Council Liaison**

Nancy Novit **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**

Jennifer Raines, Senior Advocate **P**

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

**Guests**

Robbie Boudreau, Executive Director of Faith in Action (FIA)

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Recited by all in attendance.

**3. Welcome New Commissioner**

Chair Strenger-Wayne introduced new Commissioner, Jean Manning. Commissioner Manning introduced herself to the Commission and gave a summary of her previous work/volunteer experiences.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

*Commissioner Hermann moved to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2023, SRC Meeting. Commissioner McKiernan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

None present.

**6. Faith In Action Semi Annual Report**

Robbie Boudreau, Executive Director of Faith in Action (FIA) gave an update on the usage of FIA services by community population. She also went over the transportation options and mentioned that the Go-Go Grandparent option has really increased in usage. Phone Friends, a phone service, has really been a target for FIA as isolation and loneliness are devastating the health of the senior population. Director Boudreau pointed out that the relationship between FIA and Dickinson Hall is outstanding and specifically mentioned the SOWN (Supportive Older Women's Network) group that takes place at Dickinson Hall. Director Boudreau gave an example of a game she plays with the members of SOWN by playing the quick version of the game with the SRC Commissioners.

Commissioner Manning asked which programs are held at Dickinson Hall and asked if there was any that were for men only. She mentioned that men may be even more isolated because they tend to be less social than women.

Manager Schwall mentioned the program that Dickinson Hall has monthly, On Our Own, which is attended by men and women. She noted that she knows of a few men's coffee meet-up groups that meet outside of Dickinson Hall. Also, popular games of Bridge and Poker attended predominantly by men.

Director Boudreau said Commissioner Manning had a valid point and she will investigate options for men including a possible bowling night.

Chair Strenger-Wayne gave thanks to Director Boudreau and said FIA is life-giving and lifesaving and such a phenomenal resource.

Commissioner Manning asked Director Boudreau which community is getting older faster. Director Boudreau said she would find out that information but both Highland Park and Lake Forest were trending older, quicker.

**7. Dickinson Hall Manager's Report**

Manager Schwall reported that FY20 was Dickinson Hall's standout membership year with over 1000 members. Based on how many members Dickinson Hall currently has, it is on track to be even higher for FY24. Phone calls will also be made in the fall to remind individuals who have not renewed.

Programs are performing very well with 91 people that attended the Friday Night Live in June and 127 members who attended the Membership Appreciation Night.

The Great Room floors will be refinished in mid-August and will take 30 days to fully dry. The LF Library as well as the Municipal Services Building will be utilized for programming during that time.

Commissioner Montgomery asked how a dog gets certified as a service dog. Manager Schwall mentioned that Director Boudreau has previously done a program about service/therapy/comfort dogs and the certification process. Senior Advocate Jennifer Raines added that in order for someone to qualify for a service dog, it requires a diagnosis/recommendation from a therapist.

Manager Schwall explained to the SRC that the 2019 Ford Starcraft white van had received severe hail damage back in April while parked at Dickinson Hall. While on a trip for the Chicago Architectural Tour on June 1, the driver went to pick up staff/members and went through a parking garage facility where the clearance was not high enough. The van received severe roof damage and will be considered totaled. Manager Schwall will meet with City of Lake Forest (CLF) fleet to discuss further insurance payment/new van purchase options. A discussion took place regarding possible purchase options for a new senior van.

#### **8. Senior Housing Update**

Chair Strenger-Wayne gave an update on the Senior Housing project. She explained that there has been a huge delay due to a significant change in construction costs along with the lack of filing for state funding. At this point, there will be a push toward Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) to gather bids from other contractors to prove up a solid budget. Chair Strenger-Wayne explained that there is tremendous interest and support for this project from the CLF.

Commissioner Montgomery asked what the role of the SRC and Foundation are for this project. Chair Strenger-Wayne explained that there is financial support from the Foundation, The Housing Trust Board, along with grants and tax credits in place. The role of the SRC is to advocate for these cottages as there is a desperate need for senior housing in Lake Forest.

Commissioner Montgomery asked what the size of each cottage will be. Chair Strenger-Wayne answered that originally, they were to be 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom including 1-den and 1-powder room. Now, they could end up just 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom units. A discussion took place regarding the resizing of the units, the number of units and the hierarchy of whom the cottages would be available to.

Senior Advocate Raines explained that the group of On Our Own attendees have expressed frustration with the project. As they would like it to be apartments and more than 12 units. These attendees have explained the desire to stay in the Lake Forest community via senior housing.

#### **9. Comments by Commission Members**

No Comments.

**10. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 1:00pm.**

**11. Adjournment**

*Commissioner Montgomery moved to adjourn. Commissioner Hermann seconded.  
The meeting was adjourned at 2:08pm.*

Submitted by: Tara J. Purtell, Administrative Assistant