

The City of Lake Forest
Dickinson Hall
Senior Resources Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2022

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Strenger-Wayne opened the meeting at 1:21pm. New Commission member Denny Hermann introduced himself to the Senior Resources Commission (SRC) and gave a background.

Commission Members

Gale Strenger Wayne-Chair **P**
Jill Rosa **A**
Wendy McKiernan **A**
Mark Dewart **P**
Fred Montgomery **P**
Denny Hermann **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 **P**
Jennifer Raines, Senior Advocate **P**

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

Guests

Joan Barott, Lake Bluff Resident
Margaret Abel, Lake Bluff Resident

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2022, SRC Meeting. Commissioner Hermann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Lake Bluff Resident Margaret Abel addressed the Commission regarding seeing various senior housing apartments around Lake County and wanted to confirm that Lake Forest was still in process of its senior housing project. She also asked why cottages were chosen over apartment buildings.

Chair Strenger-Wayne and Alderman Jed Morris confirmed that the senior housing project is still moving forward and answered that in Lake Forest cottages would be more fitting and that there are currently senior cottages in Lake Forest so modeling them after those successful cottages was appropriate. The project calls for 12 cottages to be built with a potential of housing 24 seniors. Commissioner Dewart added that Lake Bluff considered adding senior housing, but the board voted it down.

4. Senior Advocate-Bi-Annual Report

Chair Strenger-Wayne introduced new Senior Advocate Jennifer Raines. Senior Advocate Raines gave a brief background on her education and work experiences. Chair Strenger-Wayne mentioned as a reminder that Senior Advocate Raines is an employee of Family Services of Lake County, but a portion of her salary is paid by the LF/LB Senior Citizens' Foundation. Senior Advocate Raines gave a report of the 20 people that have contacted her over the past month. She noted that she is in process of being SHIP trained and will be taking that exam soon.

Commissioner Montgomery asked if Raines will be doing the same thing as her predecessor, Janet Fryer. Manager Schwall commented that she would but added that there will be a concentration of unmet needs of individuals in the community that need help qualifying for certain services. Chair Strenger-Wayne added that Senior Advocate Raines is certified in counseling.

Senior Advocate Raines asked the Senior Resources Commissioners what they would like to specifically see in her reports to them. Chair Strenger-Wayne requested Raines inform the Commission of any patterns of need, so SRC may work with the Foundation/City to address them.

Commissioner Hermann commented how nice it was to have the tax assistance. Manager Schwall explained that AARP will return this year to help seniors with free tax service.

5. Dickinson Hall Membership Fee

Chair Strenger Wayne explained that Manager Schwall and staff recommends that the membership fees remain unchanged for FY24.

Manager Schwall added that Dickinson Hall fees are on par or slightly higher than those of nearby senior centers. Dickinson Hall has remained steady with membership fees for many years.

Commissioner Montgomery asked if the fee remains unchanged will the budget be in balance. Manager Schwall answered most likely. She mentioned that raising membership fees could potentially deter members rather than increase revenue.

Commissioner Dewart moved to approve no change in membership fees for FY24. Commissioner Montgomery seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Jed Morris asked if the city has been doing a good job on the building maintenance for Dickinson Hall since the City took over that service in May of 2022. Manager Schwall answered that it has been phenomenal with jobs such as tuckpointing, plasterwork, painting, window washing and checking in on the building multiple times during the week.

6. Items of Consideration

Chair Strenger-Wayne reported the contributions from Lake Forest and Lake Bluff for FY23 provide adequate coverage of \$349,573 for (3) full time staff salary and benefits.

7. Dickinson Hall Manager's Report

Manager Schwall first welcomed new Senior Advocate to staff, Jennifer Raines and again commented on how great Building Maintenance is doing with Dickinson Hall.

She reported that one of her goals is to have Dickinson Hall along with City of Lake Forest Police and Fire become a "Dementia Friendly" community. She is working with Joann Desmond who is on the Dementia Friendly committee and on the LF/LB Senior Citizens' Foundation to get staff members trained on how to help and manage situations where you encounter individuals with memory issues.

Manager Schwall also reported that an individual who is a Dickinson Hall member applied for a grant through Thrivent Financial and wishes to use it for Dickinson Hall improvements. The \$250 grant will go towards completing the second-floor game room which will include new paint. The DaVinci Painters have also volunteered their time to paint this room.

Manager Schwall mentioned that she will give financial updates on Dickinson Hall biannually in the November and May SRC Meetings.

8. Comments by Commission Members

Chair Strenger Wayne welcomed Program Supervisor, Katie Dolan back to work.

9. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 1:00pm.

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Montgomery moved to adjourn. Commissioner Hermann seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 pm.

Submitted by: Tara J. Purtell, Administrative Assistant