

**The City of Lake Forest  
Dickinson Hall  
Senior Resources Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2022**

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

Acting Chair Dewart opened the meeting at 1:09pm.

**Commission Members**

Gale Strenger Wayne-Chair **A**

Jill Rosa **A**

Wendy McKiernan **P**

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 **A**

Jennifer Raines, Senior Advocate **A**

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

**Guests**

Robbie Boudreau, Executive Director Faith in Action (FIA)

**2. Approval of Minutes**

*Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2022, SRC Meeting. Commissioner Hermann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

None present.

**4. Faith in Action Request for CY23 Funding**

Faith in Action Executive Director Robbie Boudreau shared that FIA was 1 of 10 agencies that received funding from the July 4 Shooting Response Fund. The funds were received due to the behavioral health response that FIA provided to the Highland Park community.

She shared that within 2 weeks of the July 4 incident FIA hired a first time At-Home Health Specialist. There was volunteer training completed so that there could be a high level of response to trauma in the mourning community. This hiring also helped fill the gap created by a shortage of providers. There is currently no other agency offering in-home counseling services. Executive Director Boudreau gave an example of one of the current clients that is being served in Lake Bluff as she lives with her disabled son and worries about what will happen to him once she passes.

Executive Director Boudreau explained that FIA doesn't duplicate services offered by Dickinson Hall but rather fills the gaps. She noted that one of their transportation services (Go-Go Grandparent) allows seniors to go anywhere within 15 miles of their home and their social services support older seniors with special yoga classes. She explained that the biggest difference between last year and this year is transportation and social support. The SOWN (Supporting Older Women's Network) group has created a family within a family and provided an opportunity for connection to other people. Also, more connection-based issues have grown which include phone check-ins and holiday gifts.

Commissioner McKiernan asked which programs are held at Dickinson Hall. Executive Director Boudreau answered that the SOWN group is held at Dickinson Hall along with Love on a Leash. The Love on a Leash Program brings Therapy Dogs to Dickinson Hall to promote a calming mood and reduce stress.

A discussion took place amongst Commissioners that included personal stories of family and friends that have benefited from connection. A lot of this was discovered during Covid-19 when there was no contact and a vast amount of loneliness.

Acting Chair Dewart asked how they were able to add a valuable service of home counseling with their budget. Executive Director Boudreau explained that they have eliminated hourly employees which then enabled them to proceed with home counseling.

Commissioner Montgomery expressed his gratitude and explained that we are fortunate for the services FIA provides to area seniors.

*Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve the SRC request that the Foundation approve the grant request of \$25,000 for Faith in Action's CY23 Transportation and Social Support Program. Commissioner McKiernan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **5. Dickinson Hall Manager's Report**

Manager Schwall presented her new Mid-Year Report that had been previously requested by Commissioner Montgomery. Manager Schwall explained that she would provide a detailed program, financial and transportation report twice a year (November

& May) on Dickinson Hall. Manager Schwall asked if there was anything else the report should contain.

The report was complimented by the SRC for being very comprehensive and organized.

Manager Schwall commented that the new second floor Game Room is currently being painted by the donation service of DaVinci Painters. The Game Room is being completed thanks to a Dickinson Hall member's grant through Thrivent Financial of \$250. This game room will host smaller games and free up larger spaces in the Great Room for more activity offerings.

Acting Chair Dewart commented that the report is important to see who is doing what so that the SRC can make informed decision on what to focus on and said Manager Schwall did a tremendous job completing it.

Commissioner McKiernan asked if Building Maintenance is a fee paid directly to the city. Manger Schwall responded that as of May 2022 Building Maintenance took over the interior (they previously only did the exterior) and it is included in part of the Dickinson Hall budget. She mentioned that Building Maintenance has been excellent to worth with. She noted that Dickinson Hall is in process of looking for a porter for approximately 2 hours each evening.

Commissioner Hermann asked who cleans the Dickinson Hall floors. Manager Schwall answered that Dickinson Hall has a janitorial service that comes in each night for cleaning.

Alderman Morris asked if there is anything for CIP. Manager Schwall said nothing at this time is needed but believes the roof is on the list.

#### **6. Request for Program/Services and Transportation Funding for FY24**

Staff requests that the SRC supports Dickinson Hall's request for the Programs/Service and Transportation funding for FY24 from the LF/LB Senior Citizens Foundation.

The \$70,000 covered a lot of the building supplies and helped with various programming needs, the \$34,000 covered transportation driver salaries, and vehicle maintenance.

*Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve the SRC request that the Foundation approve the Senior Resource Manager's FY24 request for funding as follows:*

*-Program/Services grant up to \$70,000*

*-Transportation grant up to \$34,000*

*Commissioner Hermann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **7. Comments by Commission Members**

No comments.

#### **8. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 1:00pm.**

**9. Adjournment**

*Commissioner McKiernan moved to adjourn. Commissioner Montgomery seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm.*

Submitted by: Tara J. Purtell, Administrative Assistant