

The City of Lake Forest
Dickinson Hall
Senior Resources Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2023
1:00pm

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Strenger-Wayne opened the meeting at 1:00pm.

Commission Members

Gale Strenger Wayne-Chair **P**

Jill Rosa **A**

Wendy McKiernan **P**

Mark Dewart **P**

Fred Montgomery **A**

Denny Hermann **P**

Jean Manning **P**

City Council Liaison

Nancy Novit **P** (arrived at 1:08pm, left at 2:41pm)

Staff

Sally Swarhout, Director of Parks and Recreation **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 of Faith in Action (FIA)

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Hermann moved to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2023, Senior Resources Commission Meeting. Commissioner Manning 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 CY24 Funding

Director Boudreau gave a broad overview of FIA including the usage of FIA by community according to the US Census 2020. She noted the trending older adults in Lake Forest in population 65+.

Director Boudreau went over the current transportation options that FIA provides which include escorted volunteer transportation for the frail elderly or individuals using the service for temporary purposes such as physical therapy. The other option is Go-Go Grandparent, which would be consistent with an Uber experience. She also listed the services that are provided in terms of care and social support.

Given rising costs and demand in many aspects including: insurance, transportation, and other out of pocket costs, Boudreau explained that to maintain the same level of service and keep the budget the same, two different tiers may be offered for consideration of the 2024 Grant Proposal.

The Needs Based Plan would institute an income eligibility and tier the transportation program by eligibility in Tier 1 and age in Tier 2. The Inclusive Plan (current plan) would be the status quo of what FIA currently provides to the Dickinson Hall service area.

She mentioned another option would be to raise the age. Director Boudreau did note that 80% of the rides given are to individuals over the age of 80 years old. She explained that the 85 and over are the underserved population facing the highest level of loneliness and isolation.

A discussion took place by the Commission on the different options and what would work best for the Dickinson Hall service area seniors.

Chair Strenger-Wayne moved that the SRC requests that the Foundation approve the grant request of \$25,000 for Faith in Actions' CY24 Transportation and Social Support Program with an age guideline of 75 years and older for using the Transportation Services only. Commissioner Hermann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Dickinson Hall Mid-Year Manager's Report

Manager Schwall asked the Commission last month to talk about and/or promote Dickinson Hall in their daily lives then share with the Commission.

Commissioner Manning shared that she lives in Conway Farms and was surprised of how many people did not know about Dickinson Hall, at the HOA meeting many Newsbriefs were set out and taken. She is working on a possible presentation about Dickinson Hall to the HOA. Chair Strenger-Wayne took Mah Jongg lessons at Dickinson Hall and talked to some non-members in her class about joining.

Manager Schwall briefly went over the Mid-Year Report which includes Membership, Programs, Transportation, Social Services and all the Financials. She explained that everything is performing very well. The Commission gave kudos for the great, in-depth report.

6. City of Lake Forest Community Survey Results

Manager Schwall shared the results of the Community-Wide Survey regarding Dickinson Hall. She explained that a lot of the comments made show that a lot of individuals in the community do not know what current programs and services Dickinson Hall provides.

She did confirm that herself as well as staff members would investigate some comments that were valid including memory café, wellness checks and intergenerational programming.

City Council Liaison Novit explained that it may be important to revisit communication with young families as many of their parents and/or grandparents are moving and have moved to Lake Forest. She also mentioned that Dickinson Hall could benefit from being on the Lake Forest Love App.

7. Dickinson Hall Senior Van

Chair Strenger-Wayne gave the background on the 14-passenger van that was involved in an accident in June of 2023. Insurance totaled the van and a settlement of \$80,495 was received. Since June 1, Dickinson Hall has had 17 bus trips with limited access to a CDL Driver. A bus has been rented 8 times and over \$6,000 in rental fees have occurred. She also mentioned to the Commission to keep the senior car sedan on their radar as it is getting up there in miles and age. The green bus will be driven until it cannot be used anymore.

The 14-passenger van had a wheelchair lift, over the past 4 years that lift has only be utilized three times. Purchasing a 14-passenger bus without a wheelchair lift will give an extra spot for a participant to go on a Dickinson Hall trip.

A conversation took place on whether Dickinson Hall needs to have a wheelchair accessible vehicle. Manager Schwall will investigate ADA Guidelines.

Commissioner Dewart moved that the SRC supports Lake Forest's purchase of a 14-passenger replacement van with a price not to exceed \$120,000 minus \$80,495 for insurance reimbursement and contingent upon the city approving up to \$20,000 from the excess senior reserve fund and up to \$20,000 from the LF/LB Senior Citizens' Foundation. Commissioner McKiernan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Request for Program/Services and Transportation Funding for FY24

Chair Strenger-Wayne presented to the Commission the request for the funding giving the historical background of continued support that the Foundation provides as it plays a vital role in programming, administration, and transportation for members and residents of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. She added that staff feels this is a reasonable request based on previous budget years.

Commissioner McKiernan moved that the SRC requests that the Foundation approve the Senior Resource Manager's FY25 request for funding as follows:

--Program/Services grant for \$70,000

--Transportation grant for \$34,000

Commissioner Manning seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Comments by Commission Members

Chair Strenger-Wayne gave an update on the Senior Housing project in that it has not moved much from the last meeting, but the new building plans do reflect a cost reduction. The process is lengthy and it is unpredictable to know when it will move forward exactly.

Chair Strenger-Wayne brought to the Commission that Senior Advocate Jennifer Raines has resigned. She has stated the challenges of working for Josselyn and the opportunity to move to a different job where she can pursue more counseling. Chair Strenger-Wayne added that Josselyn does not do anything in the senior arena and the Senior Advocate position is full-time located at Dickinson Hall but under Josselyn. She added that the vacancy comes during a difficult time as it is Medicare open enrollment but it gives the opportunity to go to the Foundation with a wish list for this position. She added this is a time sensitive issue but it is also a fresh start to see what is really needed for this position.

A discussion took place regarding the Senior Advocate position, funding, and supervision.

Chair Strenger-Wayne said that it would be helpful to explore all the alternatives and what is the true need for the Senior Advocate position and have the SRC make a recommendation to the Foundation. There cannot be action taken today as it is not on the agenda.

Manager Schwall said she has a meeting with Josselyn next week so she will get their thoughts on the position moving forward.

10. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 1:00pm.

11. Adjournment

*Commissioner Hermann moved to adjourn. Commissioner Manning seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.*

Submitted by: Tara J. Purtell, Administrative Assistant