

**The City of Lake Forest
Dickinson Hall
Senior Resources Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020**

Remote Access Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Commission Members

Gale Strenger Wayne-Chair **P**

Mark Dillon **P**

Phil Hartung **P**

Jill Rosa **A**

Barbara Sheppard **P**

Ed Richardson **A**

Thomas Sullivan **P**

City Council Liaison

Melanie Rummel **P (arrived at 1:10pm)**

Staff

Sally Swarthout, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry **A**

Janet Fryer, Senior Advocate **P (arrived at 1:02 pm)**

Tricia Schwall, Senior Resources Manager **P**

Tara Purtell, Administrative Assistant **P**

Katie Dolan, Program Supervisor **P**

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Sheppard made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2020 SRC Meeting. Commissioner Hartung seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

No citizens present

4. Senior Advocate Bi-Annual Report

Senior Advocate Fryer gave an in depth report showcasing what her latest accomplishments and challenges have been regarding individuals served during COVID-19 and how she has had to respond and adapt in many ways. She highlighted a portion of these including:

- In a combined effort with Manager Schwall a technology survey was sent to members allowing grants to be applied in order to obtain tablets for seniors that have expressed interest and a need for technology
- The Church of the Holy Spirit started delivering food to 10 people in 7 households based on Senior Advocate Fryer's recommendation of individuals that were of lower income and do not have adequate transportation
- Attempting to help individuals with loved ones in hospitals or nursing homes that cannot visit them by helping them to advocate for loved ones when they cannot see them
- Trying to get the word out on new scams that are out there related to COVID-19 tests and cures

Chair Strenger Wayne inquired about the Special Guest Program total compared to last year and Senior Advocate Fryer explained that it was 5-7 people lower last year since there are more people that are now in qualifying households due to the higher income eligibility levels that were set January 1, 2020.

Commissioner Dillon asked if Senior Advocate Fryer had a list of people who needed home repairs since it is on the list of new unmet needs relating to COVID-19. Senior Advocate Fryer explained that when an individual needs these repairs she gives out a specific handyman's phone number that will give a discount and if they are unable to pay then she will go through the Foundation Specialty Fund. A home maintenance webinar will possibly be offered in the spring.

Chair Strenger Wayne asked the Commissioners to be the eyes and ears in the community and bring forward to the Commission any unmet needs along with recommendations.

City Council Liaison Rummel added that perhaps it would be beneficial to reach baby boomer children to engage their senior parents to get involved.

Chair Strenger Wayne suggested using the Lake Forest Dialogue as an inexpensive way to market to the "sandwich generation".

Commissioner Sheppard commented that she was impressed by Senior Advocate Fryer's report.

5. Dickinson Hall Membership Fee Discussion

Chair Strenger Wayne gave a brief overview of the membership fee structure for Dickinson Hall and mentioned that it was the recommendation of staff for fees to remain unchanged for FY22 because raising fees may deter current members who did not renew for FY21 due to COVID-19.

Chair Strenger Wayne moved that the SRC supports staff recommendation for membership fees to remain unchanged for FY22. Sheppard seconded. The following

voted "Nay": None. 5-Ayes, 0-Nays, motion carried by voice vote.

6. Dickinson Hall Manager's Report

Manager Schwall reported that Dickinson Hall is finalizing the van wrap design and is also going to add some wording design to the senior car which will clearly state it is for Dickinson Hall transportation services.

Manager Schwall explained that she would need to start over with getting multiple quotes for the kitchen, library and lobby redesign. She is in process of obtaining architectural drawings then she will be able to move forward toward the RFP process. The library and lobby will be separate due to the fact that it will be decorative design rather than construction and a designer has been contacted for these areas.

Manager Schwall said Dickinson Hall is at 63% of its membership renewal as compared to last year which was around 80-85% due to the fact that Dickinson Hall is not fully reopened and/or members are uncomfortable returning for in person programming. Lecture programming via Zoom is getting larger amounts of people each time. Some members are donating money for programming as well as sponsors donating to sponsor online programming lectures.

Manager Schwall described some upcoming programming to look forward to which includes a Thanksgiving Drive-Thru Dinner on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving where individuals can register to pick-up or have delivered a Thanksgiving meal. The program will be advertised in the Newsbrief and a small fee will be attached to it thanks to partial sponsorship. Another program in the works will be in conjunction with CROYA and give seniors the opportunity to order poinsettias around the holidays from Dickinson Hall for a friend in the community and delivered by CROYA.

Commissioner Hartung mentioned that he was concerned about the kitchen remodel since he believes the future of using the kitchen in its entirety is unknown at this point and the dollars might be more appropriately used for people/social services regarding unmet needs.

Chair Strenger Wayne commented that the kitchen remodel is backed by the need to update it for safety reasons and taking advantage of the fact that Dickinson Hall is not completely open; the kitchen can be completed without causing distress to members, staff and contractors.

Commissioner Dillon added that the SRC also has a responsibility to provide physically appropriate needs to Dickinson Hall and that the CLF support has coincided that effort.

7. Comments by Commission Members

No comments made.

8. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 1:00pm.

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Dillon motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Sheppard seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:07pm.

Submitted by: Tara J. Purtell, Administrative Assistant