

**The City of Lake Forest
Dickinson Hall
Senior Resources Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2023
1:00pm**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Strenger-Wayne opened the meeting at 1:08pm.

Commission Members

Gale Strenger Wayne-Chair **P**

Jill Rosa **P**

Wendy McKiernan **A**

Mark Dewart **P**

Fred Montgomery **A**

Denny Hermann **P**

Jean Manning **P**

City Council Liaison

Nancy Novit **P**

Staff

Sally Swarthout, 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 **P**

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

Guests

None present.

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Hermann moved to approve the minutes from the July 13, 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. Senior Advocate Bi-Annual Report

Senior Advocate Jennifer Raines gave the Bi-Annual Report sharing that she has been doing more networking including vendor fairs where she was able to learn of more VA resources and home safety equipment.

She reported that she is finalizing a senior housing information guide and working on Dementia education. She completed the project on a list of senior living facilities which she provided to the Commission.

Senior Advocate Raines mentioned that a reoccurring need that she is hearing from seniors is driver's license renewal assistance. The ideal assistance would help seniors practice driving before the exam. Commissioner Dewart suggested a retired Driver's Ed teacher from Lake Bluff.

Senior Advocate Raines also explained that she has been working with clients that have needed financial assistance and the social service fund was able to pay a client's taxes so that she was able to buy groceries. Chair Strenger-Wayne added that the Foundation has indicated additional support would likely be available if needed.

Commissioner Hermann commented that he really liked the senior living facilities list.

5. Dickinson Hall Membership Fee Discussion

Chair Strenger-Wayne gave a brief background on Dickinson Hall fees as well as the current fee schedule for transportation.

Manager Schwall explained that Dickinson Hall has remained steady with their membership fees for many years and the fees are standard in the area. Fees are kept lower to encourage program participation.

Commissioner Hermann moved to approve that there is no change in membership or transportation fees for FY25. Commissioner Manning seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Dickinson Hall Manager's Report

Manager Schwall explained that she is working on a 5-year plan for Dickinson Hall and will be looking for the Commission's help to put together a workshop for seniors to give opinions and feedback as well as younger community members to suggest future happenings they would like to see. She mentioned that a consultant will also be assisting in the 5-year plan process.

Manager Schwall brought to the Commission that she would really like the Commissioners to share how they have promoted Dickinson Hall each meeting as they may have different contact with stakeholders and community than she has.

Manager Schwall will be doing the Lake Forest Spotlight at City Hall the beginning October. A discussion took place of other ideas for marketing efforts regarding Dickinson Hall. Commissioner Dewart mentioned adding the SRC Meeting Dates to the Lake Bluff E-news and Lake Bluff Calendar.

Manager Schwall is working on Dementia Friendly and will send link for SRC and Foundation members to access the training. The Dickinson Hall staff/building is considered Dementia Friendly.

The membership numbers are higher now than they were at this same time last year. Administrative Assistant Tara Purtell made reminder renewal phone calls.

Manager Schwall shared that she is waiting on the insurance money from the bus accident. The replacement bus will be similar to the white non-CDL bus and she mentioned she may need to ask the Foundation for money to complete the purchase of that new bus. She also mentioned that she is looking to trade in the green bus. The new bus will be a 14-passenger bus and anything that requires more than 14 passengers will be contracted by a rental bus company.

7. Comments by Commission Members

Chair Strenger-Wayne explained that she had a call on August 27, 2023, with Foundation President Steve Potsic, City Manager Jason Wicha and Director of Community Development Cathy Czerniak regarding the senior housing project. Chair Strenger-Wayne said Director Czerniak seemed confident that the senior housing project will move forward and they are working on proving up a budget which may include utility changes and looking at using prefab materials. She will keep the Commission informed of any updates.

8. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 1:00pm.

9. Adjournment

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

Submitted by: Tara J. Purtell, Administrative Assistant