

The City of Lake Forest
Dickinson Hall
Senior Resources Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 9, 2024
1:00pm
Amended

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Dewart opened the meeting at 1:01pm.

Commission Members

Mark Dewart-Chair **P**

Jill Rosa **P**

Wendy McKiernan **P**

Fred Montgomery **P** (arrived at 1:08pm)

Denny Hermann **P**

Jean Manning **P**

City Council Liaison

Nancy Novit **A**

Staff

Joe Mobile, Superintendent of Recreation **P**

Tricia Schwall, Senior Resources Manager **P**

Tara Kolber, Administrative Assistant **P**

Katie Dolan, Program Supervisor **A**

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

Guests

Margaret Abel, Dickinson Hall Member

Gale Strenger-Wayne, Former SRC Chair

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Recited by all in attendance

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Hermann moved to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2024, Senior Resources Commission Meeting. Commissioner Rosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Dickinson Hall member Margaret Abel voiced her concern about senior citizens that are living alone in the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff community, she suggested that a connection between Dickinson Hall and the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Fire and Police Departments be established for all seniors in the community not just members. Abel explained that a friend of hers was injured, ended up in the hospital and did not have family around. She added that it would have been nice for her to get a call from the senior center checking in on her. Manager Schwall thanked member Abel for her comments and did mention that Dickinson Hall has a close relationship with the police and fire departments as well as a social worker on staff at the Lake Forest Police Department.

5. Thank You to Gale Strenger-Wayne

The Senior Resources Commissioner gave an expression of sincere gratitude to Gale Strenger-Wayne for her dedicated years of service as a Member and Chair on the SRC. Manager Schwall read a letter of appreciation (see attached).

6. SRC Commission Openings

Chair Dewart announced that there is one current opening on the SRC so if anyone knows someone that is interested or engaged in the cause to have them get in touch with Manager Schwall. Commissioner Montgomery added that he might not be able to attend some of the 2024/2025 meeting dates but he is very interested in staying on the SRC.

7. Senior Advocate Update

Manager Schwall noted that the Senior Advocate position was approved at City Council on April 15, 2024, as a City of Lake Forest position. The final details are still being worked out but the position will be posted soon. Manager Schwall is hopeful that she will have someone to introduce by the next SRC meeting in July.

8. Dickinson Hall Manager's Report

Manager Schwall gave a report including the financials, membership numbers and Senior Advocate social service numbers (Benefit Access, Medicare, referrals). Manager Schwall reported that daily car transportation is going very well. For trips, buses are being rented as there is only one CDL driver who is unable to drive most of the time.

Manager Schwall gave a formal welcome to new SRC Chair Mark Dewart and added that Commissioners Rosa, Hermann & McKiernan have been reappointed.

The new Director of Recreation is Mike Wick, he comes from the Gurnee Park District.

Commissioner Montgomery inquired about the budget being balanced. Manager Schwall explained that was the budgeted amount and there is still time until the end of May for it to balance.

Commissioner Manning asked about the budget amount differences of sponsors. Manager Schwall explained that ever since Covid there has been far less sponsorship amounts.

9. Approval of SRC Meeting Dates

Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve the 2024/2025 SRC Meeting dates (see dates below). Commissioner McKiernan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

July 11, 2024

September 12, 2024

November 14, 2024

January 9, 2025

March 13, 2025

May 8, 2025

10. Comments by Commission Members

Commissioner Hermann gave a Highland Park affordable housing article to Manager Schwall. He was also concerned regarding the dead trees in the back of the parking lot of Dickinson Hall. Manager Schwall will contact Forestry. Commissioner Hermann also suggested that an early garden planting lecture of when and how could be a useful lecture at Dickinson Hall. Manager Schwall will suggest to Program Supervisor Katie Dolan.

Commissioner Montgomery asked what the latest update on the senior housing was for Lake Forest. Former Chair, Gale Strenger-Wayne answered that the project is still with CPAH (Community Partners for Affordable Housing) but that the City of Lake Forest has made it clear that they are all in for the project. Before the project goes to state the budget has to balance causing them to reduce the footprint of the cottages.

Commissioner Rosa asked if reaching 1,000 members was really something that could happen for this fiscal year at Dickinson Hall. Manager Schwall responded that it absolutely can and is expected to reach 1,000 members. It was around 1,000 before Covid and keeps creeping back closer each year.

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

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Rosa moved to adjourn. Commissioner McKiernan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40pm.

Submitted by: Tara J. Kolber, Administrative Assistant

DICKINSON HALL

Programs, Activities & Services for Adults 50 or Better!

May 6, 2024

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to outgoing Chair, Gale Strenger Wayne, for her dedicated service on the SRC board since 2018 and as SRC Chair since 2019. Gale has invested countless hours in support of the SRC and Foundation. Throughout her tenure, Gale has demonstrated unwavering advocacy for Dickinson Hall and the well-being of local seniors.

Key achievements during Gale's tenure:

- Acquiring a third vehicle for Dickinson Hall to eliminate the need for a CDL driver.
- Maneuvering through the challenges posed by the Covid-19 shutdown.
- Overhauling the kitchen, library, and lobby areas.
- Utilizing her expertise and network to contribute significantly to the progress of the Senior Cottage project.
- Facilitating the transition of the Senior Advocate role from Family Services to Joselyn.
- Facilitating the conversion of the Senior Advocate position into a full-time role within the City of Lake Forest.
- Championing Dickinson Hall's cause by addressing City staff and City Council, highlighting its significance and community impact.

I am particularly grateful to Gale for her thoughtful, intelligent guidance, and unwavering support since I assumed the role of manager in 2019. Moving forward, Gale will continue to serve Dickinson Hall as Secretary for the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Senior Citizens Foundation.

Thank you!

Tricia Schwall
Senior Resources Manager

