I. The Meeting Came to Order at 9:07 a.m.

II. Announcements

- Melody attended a Community Association meeting in Middle River regarding development in the area; she passed out community Resources Directories and the Victory Villa travel calendar, both were well received
- Melody explained what the developer is planning to build and how it may be senior friendly; Melody plans to talk to the builder at the next meeting to get his contact information to give to Laura so that she may speak with him about the development
- Laura initiated an inter-agency meeting that included other Baltimore County departments (Police, Fire, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Permits, Approval and Inspections, Planning, Recreation and Parks and the Library; one of the task accomplished was to have the Planning office contact BCDA when there is new zoning coming up regarding seniors

III. Approval of the Minutes

- Minutes were approved as submitted

IV. Old Business

Legislative Committee Update

- The Maryland State budget for FY 2020 is $46.6 billion while maintaining a $1.3 billion reserve. The budget fully funds administrative priorities and legislative mandated spending programs
• An item of interest Bill was introduced to live stream General assembly activities including meetings; starts January 2020 for the House and 2021 for the Senate; Also, there are 60 new legislators
• Cathy has been on conference calls with USM and Elizabeth Weglein; Virginia Crespo is no longer the Legislative Chair for USM
• Elizabeth talked about the USM focus on Patient Bill Of Rights, Cost of Prescription Drugs, Cost Of Insurance, Report Of Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission
• Legislative committee has been following 63 Bills and the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) Budget; The committee has written support letters and testified on some of these bills; Muriel Cole gave verbal and written testimony on MDOA’s budget; the budget is the same in 2019 as it was in 2018
• There was a lot of discussion about the Patient Bill of Rights (SB301) and the failure of many hospitals to post these and inform patients; this bill requires training for hospital personnel to ensure that the bill of rights is shared and understood; The audit revealed that the number of rights differed from hospital to hospital; a federal audit ranked Maryland Hospitals at number 46 in compliance
• HB1031/SB0311 End of Life Bill was supported by USM
• There were Bills regarding Maryland State retirees who lost prescription drug coverage with no notification; This was the result of a decision made 7 years ago by the O'Malley administration; Governor Hogan, the House and Senate support restoring coverage (HB490)
• Cathy mentioned HB0228/SB1341 requiring criminal background checks for nursing assistants and medication technicians
• Laura spoke about caps on Medicare and Medicaid Waiver and her concern regarding the impact on BCDA’s budget
• The Legislative Session ends on 4/8/19
• The USM Rally is on March 20; Roy, Melody and Cathy will be attending

COA Committee Update

• Phyllis will ask COA Committee Chairs to send her a brief description of their committee and their accomplishments if applicable, so that she can compile that information into a “welcoming” book for new COA members; the book should also include BCDA’s program and services
County Executive Johnny O

- Cyndy, Cathy and Laura met with the County Executive in February; Cyndy gave a brief explanation of the function of the Commission; the County Executive supports the seniors in Baltimore County
- Laura and all Department Heads have monthly meetings with the County Executive
- There are two openings on the Commission on Aging Board. The County Executive office and Councilman Izzy Patoka are aware and are working on getting them filled

V. New Business

Business Cards

- It was brought to Laura’s attention that COA members could use business cards as a way to help seniors in the community
- It was discussed if the cards should be in general and just state “Commission on Aging” with BCDA’s main phone number or have the name of the Commissioner with BCDA’s main phone number
- An option…BCDA could order one box of 500 from the current vendor with general information and split the box between the Commissioners
- Laura will check on the cost and have BCDA’s graphic designer make a sample for the next meeting

Meetings at Different Senior Centers

- Members voted to have two meetings (spring and fall) a year at different senior centers; one on the east side and one on the west side of town; the first would be October 2019 and the next would be April 2020

VI. Director’s Updates

- Handouts—Individual and Family Services Annual Report and profiles of some of the clients they serve
- Handout—N4A (National Association of Area Agencies on Aging) Policy Priority; gives an account on what’s happening around the country regarding older adults
• BCDA was accepted by AARP to become an Age Friendly Community; Age Friendly Communities help people live easily and comfortably in their homes and communities as they age; Initiatives focus on areas such as housing, transportation, caregiving, community engagement, volunteering, social inclusion and combating isolation among older citizens; workgroups will be established and Laura has asked COA to participate; BCDA is second in Maryland to partner with AARP in this endeavor; Montgomery County was first; BCDA is the 341st in the Country; BCDA will create an e-mail address just for this project as one way to receive community input. There will also be listening sessions and an area at Expo.
• Senior Solutions conference is May 2; Commission on Aging members were encouraged to attend and be a part of the day
• Volunteer Luncheon is May 16 at Martin’s West; the COA meeting will be in the morning prior to the luncheon as in the past

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Future meetings: April 9, 2019
               June 4, 2019