MINUTES
COMISSION ON AGING
Bykota Senior Center
Room 112, First Floor
Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Present: Virginia Billian, Frances Bond, Lisa Budlow, Don Gabriel, Bill Lambert, Eula Marshall, Roy Moreland, Mabel Murray, Al Muehlberger, Cathy Ward

Absent: Cyndy Allen, Sheila Roman, Marlene Siegel, Sherita Thomas, Melody Truffer

Staff: Dayna Brown, Phyllis Myers

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

II. Announcements

   • Cyndy and Laura unable to attend today’s meeting

III. Approval of the Minutes

   • The date was left off of the Fleming Senior Center Anniversary event comment; Phyllis will make a correction.
   • The minutes were approved as corrected

IV. Old Business

   Welcome Binder

   • The Commission on Aging (COA) member’ roster and the Senior Center contact list was updated
   • COA was requested to add Cyndy’s welcome letter to the binder

   The Power of Aging Expo

   • Everyone is to wear their COA name badge and sign in at the guest-check-in
   • The opening ceremonies begin at noon
   • The Seniors in Need Booth sign-up sheet was revised to reflect the times of the COA members who volunteered
   • The 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. slot is vacant; BCDA will staff to fill in
   • Dayna encouraged COA members to take extra Expo flyers to handout or post in public places to get the word out
V.  New Business

Census 2020

- Al is on the social engagement subcommittee of the Baltimore County Census committee
- April 1, 2020 is the National Kickoff day
- County Executive Olszewski would like to see 90% participation in Baltimore County
- Currently there are 847,000 people in Baltimore County; that number will increase by 12% in 2020
- The Census can be done online in about 15 minutes
- US Census employees will be going door-to-door to convince people to complete the census; $1,800 will be lost on each individual who does not complete the form
- The Census motto is “each one, reach one, each day”
- The subcommittee will meet again in November, January and March

VI.  Director’s Updates

Power of Age Expo

- Proceeds from the Expo will go to the Seniors in Need Fund; there is currently $285,000 in the fund; Phyllis will get information for the next meeting on how the funds are distributed and what the criteria is for eligibility

No Senior Eats Alone Day

- September 12th was a very successful day; over 5,000 meals were served; The County Executive, a few County Council members and the County police chief participated at area senior centers

Senior Summit – November 20

- This event was formally the Advocacy Conference which was geared toward professionals in the Aging field; it is now geared toward older adults. The overall theme is keeping them connected with information regarding aging. Jim Firman, CEO of National Council on Aging, is the keynote speaker. This event is being held at the JCC Gordon Center in Owings Mills beginning at 9 a.m. COA members asked to consider a later start time due to traffic.
Also discussed was a plan for a later start time for the monthly COA meetings at the November meeting.

Age Friendly Baltimore County

- Donna is in the process of developing a survey that helps determine what people are looking for in an Age Friendly Baltimore County; the Age Friendly Baltimore County booth at the Power of Age Expo will have laptops for visitors to take the survey. There will also be a link to take the survey on the Baltimore County Department of Aging as the survey will not be in paper form. The COA members were asked to take the survey and encourage others to do so as well.

Senior Centers

- Fleming, Lansdowne and Hereford senior centers will be pilot centers to include the 50+ population
- Fleming and Lansdowne have also increased the hours of operation; they are now operating during the same hours as all the other centers in the County

Area Plan

- Under the Older American Act, BCDA is required every four years to develop a plan that outlines what the departments goals, objectives and initiatives will be for the next four years in order to receive Title III funding

Maryland Department of Aging

- Former BCDA Director, Arnold Eppel, is working on the program Senior Call Check; when seniors sign up for the program, they receive a daily call checking in on them. Arnold is also working on a Statewide loan closet

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 10:25 a.m.