COMMITTEE: GENERAL
JUNE 11, 2015
LOCATION: ALMA VIA


EXCUSED: Dowling, Kirshbaum, Peters-Janover

RECORER: Michele McCabe

NEXT MEETING: July 9, 2015 Marguerita Johnson Senior Center – Marin City

MINUTE SUMMARY

Call to Order
Chair Monson called the meeting to order at 11:22 a.m.

Approval of Agenda
The June 11, 2015 agenda was approved as written.

Approval of the Minutes
The minutes of April 9, 2015 were approved as corrected.

Open Time for Public Expression:
Carol Jacobs-Courtz gave an update on the congregate meal and senior activities at the Albert J. Boro Community Center (Pickleweed) and the Goldenaires. There were 40 in attendance at Goldenaires and the numbers at Pickleweed increased from 25-50. Over 100 attended the multicultural picnic. Carol thanked the County and the Commission on Aging for supporting the program.

Chair’s Report: Monson reported the following:
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<td>• He attended the quarterly TACC meeting in Sacramento California. The FY 2015-16 budget may include some additional funding for IHSS.</td>
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<td>• Met with Supervisor Sears on how to coordinate with her and the BOS for the future</td>
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<td>• Retreat follow-up group met and are planning for implementing retreat suggestions next year</td>
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<td>• Noted this is his last meeting to serve as Chair and thanked all the commissioners for working with him these past two years. Monson also thanked Aging and Adult Staff for everything they did this year.</td>
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**Vice-Chair Report:** None

**Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2015-16:**

Allan Bortel as Chair of the Nominating Committee reported on the candidates:
Chair - Teri Dowling  
Vice-chair – Salamah Locks  
Secretary – Ralph Marchese

There were no nominations from the floor for officers. Commission members moved to accept applicants as nominated. Motion passed unanimously and officers were elected.

**Change in the General meeting date:**

Chair Monson asked for approval to change the General commission meeting to the first Thursday of the month effective January 2016. Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

*Health and Nutrition:* Chair Asimos reported:
- Committee is great, hardworking and dedicated.
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| • Grateful for the good turnout  
  • Committee is visiting congregate meal sites and will be done by June 30th. | |

**Planning:** Chair Timms reported that:
- The Planning Committee met on May 28th.
- Welcomed Corte Madera as an age-friendly city
- Working on the needs assessment for the 2016-2020 needs assessment
- Meeting again on June 17th and will meet monthly
- Support group for age-friendly met today; everything is coming alone well.
- Hopes to get a booth at the Senior Fair this year

**Housing and Transportation:** Chair Bortel reported:
- Senior Fair accepting applications for booths now
- Catch a Ride has hit a bump because over ½ of taxis in Marin went out of business. People call and may not get a ride.
- Marin in Motion guides were all distributed at the symposium.
- Supervisor Kinsey has always been supportive of COA and is now the chair of the CA Costal Commission. Kinsey spoke about the work of the commission at one of their recent events.
- Point Reyes Coast Guard Housing is moving along in Washington and is going to happen.
- Leelite Thomas will speak at the July 15th Housing and Transportation meeting about plans for senior housing in Marin County.
- Congratulated Program Coordinator Amy Dietz for the fine work on the Great Age Newsletter
- Housing and Transportation Committee will be passing along information to all Commissioners through the use of a form

**Legislative Task Force:** Chair Bloch reported on the following:
- Gave a report on the top 10 bills that the Commission is concerned with
- Spoke about the vaccination bill
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<td>• Ted Kennedy Memorial in Boston is an interactive process</td>
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<td>Co-chair Boutilier spoke briefly about process and Long-term Care Insurance</td>
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<td>• <em>Editorial Board: N/A</em></td>
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**Director’s Report:** Lee Pullen, Area Agency on Aging Director reported:

- We have the approval to write letters of advocacy since we have received clarification on the process.
- Spoke about his Washington D.C. trip; a very positive experience.
- Thanked the commissioners for testifying at the Board of Supervisors meeting in May.
- The main objective of the media campaign is to send out positive messages about the commission and the work of Aging and Adults.
- Asked Commissioner Gontarz-York to speak about her role.

Marianne Gontarz-York spoke about the work going on with the H&HS Media Team:

- Aging and Adult Services has been working with the media team since March.
- They decided the best approach was “the facts” to debunk myths alive in the Marin community.
- The first goals are to educate the community about what Aging and Adult Services does and how the Commission on Aging supports that work.
- Quoted blogger Ashton Applewhite: “A tsunami is something that strikes without warning and sucks everything out to sea. We are supposed to believe that old people are going to suck all our resources out with them. In fact the demographic wave that we’re looking at is an extremely well-documented phenomenon that is washing gently across a flood plain. It is not crashing on some undefended shore without warning.”
- After discussions they have come up with two objectives and two different audiences:
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1. The first is to teach the community how to successfully navigate the services and the system using the new Information & Assistance team via 457-INFO. The audience is older adults in need, caregivers, children of older adults and service providers. The specific objective is to increase the number of calls to the Information and Assistance Line by 35%.

2. The second is to inform “influencers” about the policy work of Aging and Adult Services and its partner the Commission on Aging. Influencers are business leaders, fraternal organizations, state officials, and the grand jury among others. The objective is that after communication, they will understand that the county is proactive in planning and addressing policy and service needs of older adults. A tool to help in this work is a survey/fact sheet of eight questions. They include the following:

- Do you know that one in four people in Marin is 65 or older?
- Do you know that Aging and Adult Services actively plans for all Marin residents over 60 regardless of income and offers direct services?
- Do you know that Aging grants $800,000 each year to community nonprofits to provide an array of services including transportation, nutrition etc.
- Do you know that Marin has a 23 member Commission on Aging which serves as an advisory council to towns and the Board of Supervisors?
- Do you know who your commissioner is?

They are also considering publicizing commissioner photos noting their areas of interest.

Ana Bagtas, Program Manager for Aging introduced Mary Louise Zernecke, the new ½ time registered dietician for Aging and Adult Services.

**Commission Updates:** *(Note: only four commissioner’s provided updates due to meeting time constraints)*

- Livoti (City of Novato); 250 people attended the launch of the Novato Village on Saturday June 6th.
- Brilliant (City of Mill Valley); updated folks on disaster preparedness
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<td>• Block (CSL); urged people to support the CSL</td>
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<td>• Bedinger (District 2); Fairfax Festival is this weekend on June 13(^{th}) and 14(^{th}).</td>
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**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be on July 9\(^{th}\) at the Marguerita Johnson Senior Center in Marin City.