

DENVER COMMISSION ON AGING

Minutes – April 16, 2009

Present: Fern Osborne, Phyllis Hirschfeld, Muriel Arvay, Zane Robertson, Juanita Rios-Johnston, Jamie Malone, Joe Halpern, Dre’ Dufford, Mary Madrid, Michelle Williams, Vicki Jordan, Barb Martin-Worley, Sandi Armstrong, Cecil Bethea, Erin Kruse

Excused: Morris Price, Sr., Chris Wanifuchi

Guests: Anthony Aragon, Loretta Martinez (HRCR), Jayla Sanchez-Warren & Jennifer Schaufele (DRCOG) Nolan Knox & Amanda Blanchard (Volunteers of America), David Deneau & Jean Hall (Seniors Helping Seniors)

TOPIC	DISCUSSION SUMMARY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE/PLAN
Minutes	March minutes were approved as written.	
Nominating Committee Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 Commissioners terms will be expiring soon. The Nominating Committee will be reformed to work through the process of extending terms and nominating new people. In addition there are 3 current vacancies (Districts 3, 4 and 5). - Phyllis, Anthony and Chris are current members. May need to add additional members. - Phyllis would like to brainstorm ways to include more seniors and be more representative of minority communities. Zane offered to send out information to his database of 4,000 seniors. - Jamie suggested reaching out to other Commissions. Barb and Vicki will communicate this at HRCR meetings. - Dre’ suggested reaching out to faith communities. - Barb suggested the Denver District Attorney’s office – Robin Finnegan. 	-
Committee Reports – Committee Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outreach Committee: Mary Madrid. Cmte. didn’t meet this month. July meeting will be held at Montbello Rec. Center. Morris arranged meeting and had much better experience with the Center. Zane is working on website and Jamie is developing calendar. Michelle working on October meeting in her district. Recreation Task Force made rec. to Mayor and no closures/consolidations are going to occur. - Phyllis asked Cmte. to develop an outreach plan to let seniors in the community know about the meetings that are planned for other locations so they can attend. Anthony asked the broader question about how DCoA will outreach to older adults throughout Denver on an ongoing basis? - Fern suggested meeting at a HUD property. - Advocacy Committee: Juanita Rios-Johnston. Fern helped the Cmte. become more familiar with work of Older Americans Coalition. Did a dry run of communication process by sending out a notice through Phyllis and were pleased with response rate. Discussion about whether it has to go through Chair first. It was decided the Cmte. can send 	- Everyone call their Councilman to find out what senior events they are planning and let Jamie know.

	<p>communications out directly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anthony brought up that some legislation may be in direct conflict with another City agency and it would affect our ability to take a stand. Waiting for response from Mayor’s office. OAC is asking DCoA and constituents to contact legislators to oppose additional funding cuts. - Sandi continues to work on getting updated map of where seniors live in Denver. Jayla offered to pull out numbers of people who are receiving services through DRCOG’s SAMS system. - Always ok for individual Commissioners to contact elected officials about an issue that the Commission isn’t able to officially endorse, but he or she must not represent themselves as a Commissioner. - Partnership Committee: Phyllis Hirschfeld. Joe tried to attend another County Council meeting but the date was wrong. He has rescheduled for Arapahoe County’s meeting next month. 	
<p>HRCR Advisory Council Report – Vicki Jordan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Last meeting cancelled. 	
<p>Age Matters Report – Phyllis Hirschfeld</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phyllis attended last meeting with design firm. It was very interesting to see how City and DRCOG are beginning to look at physical space for seniors. Next meeting will be set up for early May. 	
<p>DRCOG Report – Joe Halpern, Jayla Sanchez-Warren</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Received 51 proposals, made funding distributions based on flat funding, then JBC news made available about \$1M cut. Redid distributions based on \$1M and \$2M potential cuts. Currently at flat funding scenario based on federal funds making up state losses. - Jayla: I&R budget is in place but the years of maintenance are not set. Chandra is working on contract and negotiating rates. Staff is working on gathering data to populate database. - Jayla: DRCOG subcommittee working with City & County of Denver on Livable Communities. More demand for “Accessory Dwelling Units,” so more work has been done to set up zoning codes. Working with “Living Streets,” making streets safe and well-lit for all citizens. - Jayla: Trying to work together more cooperatively with County Councils. Trying to have staff attend meetings and share information. Opportunity to learn biggest community needs, how to influence change on local and state levels. - Jayla: starting conversations with researchers on the next Strengths and Needs Assessment. It might be a smaller version than previous S&NA until after 2010 Census. 	

<p>Discussion on Need for Policy on Use of Electronic Devices during Meetings</p>	<p>- Jamie made motion that electronic devices are acceptable during meetings as long as user remains engaged in meeting and is willing to move to another location if causing distraction to a Commissioner. Vicki seconded. Motion passed.</p>	
<p>Director of the Office on Aging – Anthony Aragon</p>	<p>- May is Older Adults Month. He is distributing posters to rec centers and City Council members. Needs assistance with May 28th Spring into Health Event. Resource Fair from 9-1, looking for 300+ attendees. Needs someone to staff table.</p> <p>- Hosting a People of Color Roundtable in July. Asking for rep from each Commission. Seeking to learn how each community distributes information to its own elders so OoA can reach as many people as possible.</p> <p>- Hoping to have intern in office this summer who will create a distribution database.</p> <p>- Wants to start having semi-annual meetings with presidents of each county council.</p> <p>- Census Cmte has formed a “Hard to Count” subcmte to reach out to those in community with distrust of gov’t or who are unlikely to participate. 4th Wed. from 4-5 pm at Gill Foundation.</p>	
<p>Service Provider Presentation – Volunteers of America - Nolan Knox - Amanda Blanchard</p>	<p>- Nolan Knox: Director of Nutrition Services. 2/3 of congregate meals and 57% of Meals on Wheels meals are served in Denver County. In 2005, Healthy Aging programs were started to reach low-income, minority individuals to get them to eat healthier and move more. Have done 12 12-week courses. Also run Arthritis Foundation and Chronic Disease Self-Management classes. Recently convened Partners Roundtable of other MOW providers to ensure non-duplication of services and maximizing use of all dollars. Most difficult part of program is the lengthy waiting list and having to put a caller on the waiting list rather than serving them immediately. There is a new partnership with Denver Health and GA Foods to provide 10 meal boxes to recently discharged patients.</p> <p>- Amanda Blanchard: Project Manager of Handyman Program. Overview of home-specific services related to fall and fire prevention. Started in Denver County but now serves Jeffco, Arapahoe and Adams Counties. Each client receives a safety assessment. Working with North Metro Fire to partner to serve more clients and looking to expand partnership. Two special events this year: Cool Down CO which provides fans and CO detectors and Rake Up CO which is a yard clean up day. This year has provided 80+ DTV conversion box installations and working with 9News to do some additional installations. Have served 800+ clients since July.</p>	
<p>Announcements and Other Business</p>	<p>- DRCOG provided information about upcoming national conference.</p> <p>- Latino Commission has an upcoming health fair.</p> <p>- Anthony mentioned that the bill for the retreat facilitator bill came in and he is trying to assist in paying it, but some of it needs to come out of the DCoA budget.</p>	<p>- If you/your committee knows of upcoming expenses please let Phyllis know.</p>

Next Meeting	- Thursday, May 21 st , 9:30-11:30. Volunteers of America, 2660 Larimer Street	
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