

ORANGE COUNTY
ADVISORY BOARD ON AGING

Minutes
April 8, 2014

PRESENT: Leo Allison, Heather Altman, Virginia Brown, Alex Castro, Peggy Cohn, Keith Cook, Ed Flowers, Dan Hatley, Lorenzo Mejia, Donna Prather, Dick White
GUEST: Mark Marcoplos, Cherie Rosemond
STAFF: Mary Fraser, Kathie Kearns, Janice Tyler

The meeting was called to order at the Central Orange Senior Center by Chair Heather Altman. Ed Flowers offered a motion that the minutes of the March 11 meeting be approved as distributed. Keith Cook provided the second. Motion carried.

In her Director's Report Janice Tyler noted recent media coverage including an interview of Bob Seymour in the Daily Tar Heel. She reported on the Department on Aging's participation in the April 4 Orange County Government Expo at University Mall. She also informed the Advisory Board of the Department staff persons who participated in the Emergency Management Department's disaster training and those who will be attending the NC Association on Aging's Annual Conference. Ms. Tyler announced the retirement of the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services Director Dennis Streets after 17 years in that position. She also announced that Mobility Manager Lance Hendrix has resigned to accept a position with USDA and that the Planning Department has hired a new Administrator for its Orange Public Transportation division.

Janice Tyler announced that the new Department on Aging website has been launched and its Facebook account should be available by the end of the day. Discussion followed on the degree to which older adults are embracing new technology. Ms. Tyler informed the Advisory Board that Beverly Shuford is the Department's gatekeeper for the website but several staff members will have permission to edit site information. She also reviewed the FY 2014-15 County budget request for increased funding for Senior Lunch Program meals, Senior Center maintenance/repairs, and additional Saturday hours at the Seymour Center.

Mary Fraser announced that the first Project EngAGE graduation will be held on April 28 at 3:30 p.m. at the Central Orange Senior Center. She added that the first year class plans to continue meeting monthly and has divided themselves into resource teams geographically. Janice Tyler added that no UNC Capstone team will be assigned to the Department on Aging for the upcoming academic year. MAP funding will be used to employ temporary support staff for both the first year graduates and next year's Project EngAGE class. Alex Castro asked if the graduates will recommend persons for the next year's class. Staff responded that there will also be efforts to recruit from geographic areas not represented in year one as well as representatives from the Chinese community. Lorenzo Mejia inquired about the projects that the first graduating class have chosen and was told that neighborhood watch and faith-based community outreach have been identified.

Ms. Tyler stated that the Aging in Community series will conclude that evening with a presentation by Charles House Director Paul Klever. Approximately 20 people attended the Developers' Breakfast held at the Seymour Center on March 19. The AIC Planning Team will address next steps to continue the dialogue for determining the types of housing older citizens desire that do not exist in this community. Ms. Fraser announced that all UNC Capstone Teams will be honored at a campus Celebration on April 23. Dan Hatley asked if there was an explanation for not having a Team assigned to the Department on Aging next year. A lack of interest in working with the aging population was the response. Heather Altman added that Carol Woods has had success utilizing Health Policy students who are assigned for one semester.

Mary Fraser reviewed the Department's plans for employing summer interns assigned the following areas: housing, long term care initiatives-direct care workers recognition, community resource fair/guide improvements, and the Music In My Mind project. She added that the faith-based outreach project will sponsor a workshop on May 13 and Advisory Board members will be asked to promote this event by distributing a flyer that will be sent soon via email. Keith Cook asked to be included in the planning.

Beginning Committee Progress Reports Ed Flowers announced that Carolina Pointe nursing home has a new administrator and the Britthaven facility on Legion Road may be reopening this year. There is currently one vacancy on the Nursing Home Committee and a candidate has been recommended to the Board of County Commissioners.

Dan Hatley reported that the Adult Care Home Committee has full membership. He expressed appreciation to those who helped make the showing of the Alive Inside film a success. More than 300 individuals viewed the film during its three showings and \$1,400 in contribution were collected that will be used to purchase iPods for the Medicaid residents in Orange County long term care facilities. Mary Fraser added that there are also plans to include community residents in the loan project. Alex Castro asked if local libraries can help in developing the digital music library. Ed Flowers noted the importance of including music preferences with important personal papers. Lorenzo Mejia asked if the Alive Inside film will be shown at Central Orange Senior Center as a result of the response in southern Orange. Staff responded that the film will be scheduled for either the summer or fall season and will be promoted in the Senior Times.

Cherie Rosemond continued her housing availability presentation begun at the March Advisory Board meeting. She summarized her study findings. Considerations for future developments include: single story homes, universal design, energy-efficient/low maintenance homes, intergenerational housing, common space for gatherings/quiet space for contemplation. Dialogue should continue with local planning entities and in the community through avenues such as the Aging In Community series. Board Chair Heather Altman asked how Advisory Board members can receive notice of upcoming housing-related meetings. Ms. Rosemond will add all members to the housing interest listserv. She added that universal design should be recrafted to include more than just senior housing. Alex Castro followed by suggesting that Habitat should consider universal design when building. Mary Fraser noted three themes emerging: smaller houses, suburbia with commercial options, and building communities that foster more interdependence. Glen Lennox and Southern Village were mentioned as local communities where young families and elders co-exist and could provide mutual support. Charles House in Heritage Hills is an example of services brought into an existing community. It was agreed that a report on housing initiatives should be included in the Advisory Board agenda at least quarterly.

Returning to Committee Progress Reports Leo Allison announced that the Friends of Central Orange's Las Vegas Night fundraiser will be held on April 12. The Seymour Center's Friends organization will hold a Sock Hop on April 25.

Alex Castro announced that the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Meals On Wheels Board of Directors is developing a strategic plan to address the future demands for the service. He also informed the Advisory Board that Orange Public Transportation will be expanding rural route service to the Schley and Efland communities on a limited basis soon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Tyler, Secretary