

Minutes of COA Executive Committee

January 19, 2023

In attendance: David Engel, Virginia Cain, Ryan Wilson, Morris Klein, Marsha Weber, Marcia Pruzan, Betsy Carrier, Nikki Ezeani, Beverly Rollins, Wayne Berman, Joyce Dubow, Patricia McGhee, Pazit Aviv.

David called the meeting to order.

New Business

- He welcomed new members and looks forward to a productive year. He noted there would be a new liason to the commission, Ingrid Lizama from Latino Health Initiative.
- Betsy inquired about liason reports and agreed to offer a synopsis of the Health Commission that she attended. She said those meetings were long and difficult to follow. Would it be appropriate to simply review their minutes? Pazit noted that it's not realistic to review the activities of all 75 county commissions—just those that are pertinent to the work of this commission.
- Wayne noted the budget was not on the agenda. David observed that there were no changes from the prior report. There were no objections to adding a budget report to each monthly agenda.
- David reviewed the names of the new officers and committee chairs, all of whom comprise the Executive Committee: David Engle, Chair, Virginia Cain and Wayne Berman "second chairs", Joyce Dubow, Secretary and Betsy Carrier and Barbara Selter as "assistants", Nikki Ezeani, Treasurer, Marsha Weber and Marcia Pruzan, co-chairs, Health and Wellness committee, Wayne Berman and Betsy Carrier, co-chairs, Aging in Community committee, Ryan Wilson and Morris Klein, co-chairs, Public Policy committee, Beverly Rollins and Jean Diniddie, co-chairs, Communication committee.
- The minutes of the December EC meeting reflected that when minutes at full commission meetings include action items, such items are to be reviewed at the subsequent commission meeting. The purpose of this is ensure action items are associated with follow-up action. David proposed with no objection that EC review progress on such action items prior to full commission meetings.
- He then reviewed the recent December Legislative breakfast with the state delegation, 10 of whom attended. He asked if there was any follow-up. He noted that Senator Lee was to be appointed Sec of State. Ryan sent thank you to the delegates who participated in the breakfast. As promised, Senator Lee set up a meeting with the Moore transition team to follow up on the nursing home issue. With Lee no longer in the Senate, Wayne asked who would be the appropriate member to follow up on the nursing home issue. Ryan said we'd continue working with state and county officials on the issue.
- The Councilmember meeting was summarized by Morris as cordial meeting and goodwill was established. No specific follow up required now. David thought the representation was good, especially from new members and staff. All received thank you's and those who did not attend were sent information as well. Marcia asked about Senator Katz's bill on the senior tax credit that he had discussed at the meeting. Joyce noted that here are some additional eligibility criteria besides age. There was discussion about whether the

commission should weigh in on this bill. Joyce expressed concern that that if the bill is not targeted to those most in need the commission should not weigh in.

- *Public Forum planning* was reported on by Wayne. A working group is developing a framework and agenda. Tentative title is "Smart homes, Smarter care- technology to support aging in place". The planning group is working to get a save the date card mailed. The forum will be at Bohrer Park on May 4 9:30-2:30 and held in conjunction with the Active Aging fair. The work group is still learning about the topic and thinking about speakers. Further information will be provided at the February 14 AIC meeting. David expressed appreciation for the work of the group.

Other business:

Letters of support-Wayne wanted to know what the game plan is with respect to which letters of support the commission would write. Ryan explained it was premature to discuss at this point. He acknowledged this is a reactive system but we cannot weigh in until we know what bill are being proposed. David noted that the participants at the Leg breakfast were given a heads up on the CoA's priorities. Morris has been tracking the first 180 bills in the house and more than 170 in the Senate and shared these with the EC. Many relate to tax credits, some to Medicaid, credits for buying long-term care. Each bill gets a hearing—which is important in MD—because the reaction of the committee can determine the fate of the bill. More bills will be dropped before the end of the month. The process of writing letters includes approval by EC and review by Leslie Frey at the County (she does not have approval authority, simply review).

David mentioned that during the next meeting, he will be in Costa Rica during the next Commission meeting. If his wifi connection fails, Virginia will preside.

Community for Lifetime award- Wayne noted the two awards for 2022 honored Austin Heymen and the JCA transportation program. He proposed simplifying the selection process to encourage more members to participate. The awards will be presented at the May symposium for 2023. He wants the EC to submit names to ensure there are adequate candidates and wants to eliminate using an evaluation panel. He will propose a revised process with the main goal of simplifying and making the process less onerous. He also thinks we should not be limited to just two awardees. Wayne moved to retain the program and to simplify the process. Marsha proposed the new proposal should include improved outreach to ensure a wide pool of candidates. No one opposed the motion.

Speakers for monthly commission meetings. David solicited recommendations for future meetings, while noting that we do not need to have a speaker at every monthly meeting.

- He mentioned that the county executive has not addressed the commission in several years and suggested we issue an invitation to Marc Elrich.
- Virginia suggested that there be a session on the important legislative changes that have occurred recently and how they would affect MOCO residents.
- David suggested hearing from the new state Secretary on Aging- Carmel Roques.
- Betsy noted that Medicare Advantage plans would be good topic. Joyce suggested that we wait until the open season in the fall to consider this topic.

- Virginia thinks the background and information could be useful before the commission develops its budget priorities. Ryan suggested that we need to consider our mission and that we should look to see where we can have impact is where we need to focus at the local or state level. Morris disagreed because he sees our role as including the offering of information to the public. Therefore, he thinks a speaker to clarify some issues that affect them would be in order
- Wayne proposed someone, such as Laurie Orlov, to discuss trends in technology that affect older adults and support aging in place.
- Marcia suggested that there be a presentation on Age Friendly and to invite Shawn Brennan, the new program manager, to talk to the Commissioner. She also suggested that someone from NIH-National Institute on Aging might be a good source. Virginia and Marcia will follow-up.
- Betsy proposed a speaker on housing. Marcia also mentioned that there seems to be a lot of silos with respect to housing and suggested bringing people from different areas together to clarify and foster greater accountability. Marsha suggested Louis Tannenbaum- formerly a local builder and founder of a not-for-profit and activist on home building who advocates for a federal tax credit to modify homes.
- Beverly wants to hear from a speaker who can discuss unskilled helpers who are not covered by insurance. David noted that the 2022 public forum addressed this topic and included several possible follow-up activities. Marsha suggested we get a follow-up from the task force on workforce issues.

Specific suggestions for February speakers were discussed. Marc Elrich, Evan Glass, Shawn Brennan.

Summit on Aging- has a very small planning workgroup. David wants the Commission to be engaged. He expects some additional resources may be available from the county.

Meeting with the Moore transition team- David will write up notes of the Moore transition team meeting and summarize in his chairman's report.

Letters of Recognition- Wayne mentioned there are two letters of recognition to Neal Brown and, Nanine Meiklejohn that he would like to present in person. Marsha volunteered to accompany him.

In-person vs. zoom meetings- Virginia asked if there were any plans to have an in-person commission meeting. David replied there are none at this point