Mayor's Commission on Aging

City of Oakland – Human Services Department
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Wednesday, August 5, 2020
Held via Teleconference

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

   Chair Bryan Ricks called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference.

2. **Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

   Present: Bryan Ricks, Martha Scott, Michael Coleman, Diana Garrett, Tomye Neal Madison, Shannon McDonnell, Jennifer Seibert

   Absent: Asha Benne-Clarke, Toni Gomez, Cheryl Moore

   A quorum was established.

3. **Agenda Modification and Approval**

   The agenda was approved.

4. **Discussion Minutes**

   Aging & Adult Services Manager Scott Means explained that due to COVID-19, the COA clerk, Terry Mcintosh has not been working and the March minutes were not completed.

5. **Public Forum**

   There were no public comments.

6. **Age-Friendly Oakland**

   Chairperson Bryan Ricks stated that the Livable Oakland Committee has been meeting regularly via Zoom and highlighted that Age Friendly Oakland would be the focus of the Commission.

7. **Commission Annual Report**

   Vice chair Martha Scott praised former commissioner Blake Spears for his diligent work in increasing senior voter registration in Oakland.

   A discussion was held regarding the report's Housing Domain. The focus of this domain is to assist seniors in maintaining existing housing, to make shelters available for homeless seniors, and to support physical and financial programs to insure adequate resources for senior housing. Commissioner Diana Garrett suggested that helping seniors find affordable housing should be added to the housing domain

description. Chairperson Ricks noted that the committee is looking into three organizations for a pilot program that would focus on shared housing rentals for seniors. Commissioner Shannon McDonnell asked if there was anything in the housing domain description that allows for resources needed to keep seniors in their homes, such as in-home care support services. Chairperson Ricks stated that those resources are available and need to be an add-on in the domain. He highlighted the importance of the housing domain goal of seniors having their voices heard by creating partnerships with the City Planning Committee and other key organizations.

8. **COVID-19 & Aging Services:** ***Where are we now and where are we going?***

Aging & Adult Services Manager Scott Means stated that all Senior Centers remain closed during this time due to COVID-19 however, they are open for food distribution. The senior center team is exploring virtual activities to address social isolation by promoting Senior Centers Without Walls which will extend amenities to a broader elder community.

9. **Human Services Department Report -** ***Scott Means, Aging and Adult Services Manager***

SENIOR CENTERS

Aging & Adult Services Manager Scott Means added that he and the Senior Center Directors continue to work diligently and are meeting regularly to address senior center operational plans for reopening when restrictions are lifted.

SENIOR COMPANION AND FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM (SCP/FGP)

The program is temporarily suspended however, the program has forged a partnership with Life Elder Care and local food providers to distribute food to the community. Staff continue to make wellness calls to their clients.

RIDES FOR SENIORS & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (RSPD)

The program is providing transportation services for medical appointments during this time. The Group Trip Program is suspended.

MULTIPURPOSE SENIOR SERVICES PROGRAM (MSSP)

All client outreach is occurring remotely. MSSP recently underwent a California Department of Aging Audit which concluded with no major findings.

ASSETS SENIOR EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The program is temporarily suspended however, staff is currently working on having participants return on a client by client basis.

Vice chair Martha Scott asked how the commission can get involved in the City Council's policy directive pertaining to senior centers and the potential move from the Human Services Department (HSD) to Oakland Parks and Recreation and Youth Development (OPRYD). Scott Means noted that the council is requesting a study and report within six months. Commissioner Jennifer Seibert requested an analysis/comparison pre and post COVID-19. Commissioner Tomye Neal Madison asked for clarity as to whom would be conducting the study. Scott Means noted that there is ongoing conversation between City Administration and City Council regarding the directive.

10. **Announcements**

Chairperson Ricks announced that he is meeting with non-profit organization, Virtual Village on Friday, August 7th regarding social media outreach for seniors. He will have more information at the next meeting.

Commissioner Michael Coleman reported that the commission did not receive the AARP grant. He has been in discussions with Mosswood Park staff to construct senior playgrounds as a part of their remodeling.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 10:00 am via teleconference.