



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Department on Aging

Milwaukee County Commission on Aging

Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2019

Commissioners Present

Barbara Wyatt Sibley, *Chair*
Fred Kneuppel, *Vice Chair*
Jason Haas, *Milwaukee County Supervisor*
Sharon Abston-Coleman, *PhD*
Ronald Byington
Patsy J. Delgado
John K. Griffith
Debra Jupka
Elizabeth Meyer-Arnold, *R.N., M.S.*
César Pabón
Bettie A. Rodgers, *J.D.*
Charles Vang

Commissioners Excused

Pastor Johnny C. White, Jr.

Commissioners Not Present

Gladys Carroll-Weathersby
Maria Castrejon-Pérez, *Secretary*
Jordan Luhr

Milwaukee County Staff Present

Holly Davis, *Executive Director*
Jon Janowski, *Director of Administration*
Andy Bethke
Dan Idzikowski
Jill Knight
Ayame Metzger
Beth Monrial Zatarski
Vonda Nyang
Lorie O'Connor

Guests Present

Cheryl Adams
Patricia Adams
Mindy Anderson, *SOA*

Guests Present... continued

Barbara Bechtel, *Advocacy Committee*
Ruth Bevenue, *Advocacy Committee*
Christine Carter, *LGBT Center*
Martha Collins, *Hunger Task Force*
Maureen Conrad
Sandra Dotson
Pat Dunn
Dave Farwell, *Corporation Counsel*
Rubi González, *UCC*
Thomas Gossett, *Goodwill*
Hector Hernandez, *UCC*
Vevette Hill-Nwagbaraocha, *SOA*
Tom Hooyman
Richard Izard
Geraldyn Juettner
Jim Kehoe
Mary Kay Kuenzi
Willie Lovelace
Melissa Meier
Gary Mikolajczyk
Willie Mitchell, *Milwaukee Recreation*
Katrina Mosley
Harold Oemig
Martha Pincus
Maria Ramirez, *Social Security Administration*
Arvilla Rank
Alyna Romain, *LGBT Center*
Eileen Rossow
Mary Jane Sericati
Shirley Sharp
Debbie Tiegs
Judith Troestler
Cindy Van Vreede
Evelyn Williams
Cathy Wood, *SOA*

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:

Chair, Barbara Wyatt Sibley, welcomed the meeting attendees. The Commission on Aging meeting was called to order at 9:00 am., at the Wilson Park Senior Center, 2601 W. Howard Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53221.

- II. PRESENTATION OF THE SENIOR STATESMAN CERTIFICATES:** Commission Chair, Barbara Wyatt Sibley, and MCDA Executive Director, Holly Davis, presented the Milwaukee County Department on Aging's Senior Statesman program certificates to the 2019 participants who completed their training. The Senior Statesman program is designed to train participants

to become advocates on issues of importance to seniors in the community and to strengthen their voice with policymakers.

- III. COMMISSION ON AGING Q & A WITH THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, CHRIS ABELE:** In 2020, Milwaukee County faces a \$28 million budget cut mainly due to the flat rate funding it receives from the state. Although Milwaukee County subsidizes a lot of the growth in the State of Wisconsin, the County has not had an increase in state funding for many years. The State needs to change the way it looks at funding local government for either by increasing direct revenue or by allowing flexibility in the way the County obtains additional income. If nothing changes, the County will eventually run out of resources. The County Executive is working diligently with other governmental officials to achieve an increase in state funding in the state budget. The County Executive offered that his office could provide a one-pager with bullet points that could help seniors assist with advocacy for state funding within the state budget.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 29, 2019, COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES:**
MOTION: To approve the March 29, 2019, Commission on Aging meeting minutes.
ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Griffith **Moved**, Jupka **Second**).
- V. CONSENT AGENDA COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:**
- A. ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (February 4, 2019)** See *Advocacy Committee meeting minutes for February 4, 2019, (mailed and distributed)* for a comprehensive explanation of topic/issue discussions.
- B. WELLNESS COMMITTEE (February 21, 2019)** See *Wellness Committee meeting minutes for February 21, 2019, (mailed and distributed)* for a comprehensive explanation of topic/issue discussions.
- C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (March 4, 2019)** See *Executive Committee meeting minutes for March 4, 2019, (mailed and distributed)* for a comprehensive explanation of topic/issue discussions.
- MOTION:** To approve the Consent Agenda for the February 4, 2019, Advocacy Committee meeting minutes, the February 21, 2019, Wellness Committee meeting minutes, and the March 4, 2019, Executive Committee meeting minutes.
- ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Meyer-Arnold **Moved**, Abston-Coleman, **Second**).
- VI. REFLECTION: COMMISSIONER, ELIZABETH MEYER-ARNOLD COMMISSIONER**
Commissioner Meyer-Arnold reflected on her thought process on managing her 'getting-out-of-bed-on-the-wrong-side' days. She reminded us to focus on positivity to help turn those bad days into good days.
- VII. ACTION ITEM: COMMISSION ON AGING BYLAWS REVIEW – ARTICLE III AND ARTICLE IV:** At the Commission's request, David Farwell, Assistant Corporation Counsel, prepared an Advisory Memorandum with proposed revisions to the Bylaws. The Chair announced how the process of the bylaws review would be conducted before voting would take place on the articles.
- MOTION:** For Corporation Counsel to write the job duties description of the Legislative Officer in Article IV, Section 4, Subsection D., and to accept Article IV, Section I, Officers.
- ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Rodgers **Moved**, Meyer-Arnold **Second**).

Accept Article III, Section 1, Duties of the Commission on Aging. A vote was taken to accept this section with no modifications.

MOTION: Accept Article III, Section I, Duties of the Commission on Aging, with no changes.

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Griffith **Moved**, Abston-Coleman **Second**).

In Subsection A, under Article IV, Section 2, Election of Officers, text was added at the beginning of the sentence that reads, "Elections shall be held annually," motion to accept this change with no other changes.

MOTION: Accept Article IV, Section 2, with the addition of "Elections shall be held annually" to Subsection (A). No changes to Subsection (B), or C.

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Jupka **Moved**, Abston-Coleman **Second**).

The Commission extensively discussed Article IV provisions and ultimately directed Corporation Counsel to draft Article IV bylaws based on the current structure of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

MOTION: To delay action on Article IV, and to refer this section to Corporation Counsel to revise a draft of the bylaws based on the structure of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Jupka **Moved**, Knueppel **Second**).

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: HOLLY DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Davis provided a summary on the "Informational Report on Former Unison Contracts" that the Department submitted to the County Board for the April cycle (A copy of the Informational Report was provided). Ms. Davis also gave a short report on staffing, stating that within the Aging Resource Center, there are a few vacancies, however the Call Center and Elder Abuse Unit are fully staffed. Ms. Davis encouraged everyone to read the Wisconsin Policy Forum final report which is available on MCDA's website. Lastly, Ms. Davis reminded everyone that May is Older American's Month.

IX. COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT: JASON HAAS, COUNTY SUPERVISOR

Milwaukee County Supervisor Jason Haas continued the discussion on Milwaukee County's 2020 budget. He discussed the long-term need of increased State funding. Supervisor Haas emphasized the unfortunate cuts that all County Departments will continue to face unless there are some changes made at the State level. Lastly, Supervisor Haas announced that this year the County will be running the Humboldt Park Beer Garden and fresh empanadas will be available for purchase.

X. STATE UPDATES: No Report

XI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chairwoman Wyatt Sibley advised the meeting attendees to review the Commission on Aging and MCDA's year-end reports which highlight the work they completed in 2018.

She noted that the Executive Committee is working on a Commission on Aging succession plan, as there will be six Commissioners completing their terms by January 2020. The Chair encouraged Commissioners to visit a Senior Center on their own, or to sign up to take a tour as a group. Chairwoman Wyatt Sibley also announced all upcoming events and partner announcements that were in Commissioner meeting packets (flyers were provided at the meeting).

XII. COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT: No Report

XIII. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS:


Department comment regarding upcoming events, activities, and opportunities for older adults: Announcements from the COA Chair: Chairwoman Wyatt Sibley reminded Commissioners of their commitment to visit a County-owned Senior Center, as well as to attend one of the Senior Center Advisory Committee meetings. The Executive Committee meeting for May 6th will begin at 12:00pm instead of its regularly scheduled time of 11:45am.

Public comment regarding upcoming events, activities, and opportunities for older adults: Flyers were passed out for the following events: Seniorfest 2019, Senior Health & Fitness Day, Aging Advocacy Day, and Older American's month. Additionally, flyers were provided on partner services for the following organizations: Jewish Family Services, the Alzheimer's Association, and Walker's Point Community Clinic.

XIV. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:45am.

The next Commission on Aging meeting is at **9:00am on Friday, May 24, 2019**, at **Marcia Coggs Human Services Building, Conference Room 104, 1220 W. Vliet St.**, Milwaukee, WI 53205.

Respectfully submitted,



Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant