

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
AGE-FRIENDLY AD HOC COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Age Friendly Ad Hoc Committee was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Respicio Vazquez, Chris Hauri, Daniel Lauber, Deborah Frederick,
James Flanagan, Lydia Manning
Absent: Angie Seder, Ron Sherman
Also Present: Management Analyst Sara Phyfer

Chairperson Vazquez announced that Angie Seder has resigned from the Committee.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Lauber made a motion, seconded by Mr. Flanagan to approve the August 12, 2020 meeting minutes.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Respicio Vazquez, Chris Hauri, Daniel Lauber, Deborah Frederick,
James Flanagan, Lydia Manning
Absent: Ron Sherman
Nays: None
Motion Passes.

**4. COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES: DEMENTIA FRIENDLY RIVER FOREST (DFRF)
AND AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE (AFCC)**

Ms. Manning reported that DFRF is moving forward with the creation of a website, and that the group has recently discussed issues related to wandering and silver alerts program. She stated they are working on having virtual meetings with other organizations, and she suggested exploring opportunities to partner with Maywood on age-friendly and dementia-friendly initiatives.

Chairperson Vazquez stated he had nothing to report related to AFCC because there was no meeting.

Ms. Manning noted the Center for Gerontology had received another round of funding through the Kott Foundation and that there will be a virtual summit with the Center, Mayoral Caucus, and AARP throughout January covering a variety of topics.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion of Committee's Objectives and Survey Themes

Ms. Hauri stated the Hanover, Ontario plan would be a good template to start with and agreed with Ms. Manning's suggestion about working with other communities.

Chairperson Vazquez stated at some point, he would like to have a discussion to determine which of the AARP's 8 domains of livability the Committee wants to focus on. He also noted that one or two members can do research but when it comes time to reviewing and making recommendations, it should be done as the group. He emphasized he is not trying to restrict what the Committee does.

Ms. Hauri suggested once they identify the focus, they could do focus groups with other seniors or community members to help come up with solutions.

Mr. Flanagan asked the Committee to consider what does age-friendly look like and what does it mean. He suggested Brad Winick is a good resource on this topic. He noted people do not always connect with polling about aging or aging services because they relate these matters to death.

The Committee reached a consensus to invite Mr. Winick to the next meeting. Mr. Lauber noted he authored the APA PAS report.

Mr. Lauber shared notes he prepared about what the group needs to learn and do. He discussed: producing an assessment of current assets, housing, mobility and disability, safety, demographic information, a review of the Village Code to remove disincentives or impediments to an aging-supportive community. He also discussed the need to avoid self-selected surveys and including a younger age cohort with the sample.

The Committee discussed the challenges of getting people to respond to a survey when they do not want to confront aging. Ms. Manning suggested an education effort around age-friendly, similar to what DFRF does.

Mr. Lauber emphasized the need to conduct the survey properly and stated it ought to be a mail survey. He explained the best approach to this, which includes a randomized survey

sent to seniors, sending out a postcard letting them to look out for the survey, then sending the survey a week later, and then a third and final mailing for those who have not responded.

The Committee discussed other ways to communicate with seniors, including utilizing a hybrid option for those who use technology.

Ms. Manning suggested reaching out to Betsy Kelly, who is already engaged in listening sessions with older adults, and possibly setting up phone sessions with her for older adults who do not use technology. She stated that Ms. Kelly may be willing to support data collection.

The Committee further discussed the survey, including whether Concordia students or other types of interns would be able to assist with data collection efforts.

Chairperson Vazquez asked the Committee to review the sample surveys already provided to help put together their own survey. The Committee discussed focusing specifically on the Hanover, Honolulu, and housing survey.

In response to a question from Ms. Manning, Chairperson Vazquez stated the Twin Village Covenant is not limited to sharing financial contracts and includes working together to benefit both communities. He stated he did not know Trustee Jones' thoughts would be on collaborating on age-friendly issues but that he guessed he would welcome it. He stated he would reach out to MMC to see who represents Maywood to start the conversation.

7. NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 14

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hauri made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauber, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29pm.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Respicio Vazquez, Chris Hauri, Daniel Lauber, Deborah Frederick,
James Flanagan, Lydia Manning

Absent: Ron Sherman

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Sara Phyfer, Secretary