

City of Birmingham
Regular Meeting of the Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee
July 26, 2023

Conference Room 202

151 Martin Street, Birmingham, Michigan

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham's Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee held on July 26, 2024.

1. **Call to Order:** Staff Liaison ACM Clemence convened the meeting at 4:02 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:**

Present: Leslie Pielack, Cris Braun, Melissa Mark, Rackeline Hoff, Rosemary O'Malley

Absent: Rebekah Craft

Guests: Jim Ellison - Chief of Older Adult Services for Oakland County

3. Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Elections:

At the suggestion of Staff Liaison ACM Clemence, it was suggested that the selection of a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson be delayed until the next scheduled meeting to allow for full participation of members.

Motion by Staff Liaison ACM Clemence to act as temporary meeting chair and postpone elections until the next regularly scheduled AIPC meeting. Voice Vote:

Yeas: Pielack, Braun, Mark, Hoff, O'Malley

Nays: None

4. **Approval of Minutes:** First meeting of the Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee - No minutes to approve.

5. Guest Speaker: Jim Ellison - Chief of Older Adult Services for Oakland County:

Mr. Ellison explained that he started a new position with Oakland County in January of this year as the Chief of Adult Services. Mr. Ellison explained that he has a long history of public service and that he is looking forward to his new role with the County. Mr. Ellison provided the following information:

- a. In 2021, Oakland County formed a Healthy Aging Ad Hoc Committee that created the "Blueprint for Successful Aging" in cooperation with the Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B). Oakland County wants to assist older adults with these initiatives.
- b. There are 39 senior centers in Oakland County. Since taking the position, Mr. Ellison is in the process of visiting each one. So far, he has been to 20 senior centers. While at each center, Mr. Ellison focuses on three factors: Discover, Define and Disseminate.

- c. Each center is analyzed for services and recorded on a master spreadsheet for the services offered. Most of the senior centers offer very similar programming. Programming is "funding based" at most centers. Other observations are:
 - i. Large differences in the senior facilities, from extravagant to very basic.
 - ii. Most centers are open to all, not just residents. Often there is a premium membership fee for an outside person attending the center.
- d. In the process of setting up his first newsletter that will detail all of the various services of each senior center.
- e. There are two "senior fests" planned this year. One in the City Southfield and one in the City of Royal Oak. More information will be forthcoming.
- f. One of the biggest positives that he has seen is that people are happy that they have someone to call - "Somebody to talk to."
- g. Finally, Mr. Ellison explained that it "boils down to budget" and how much money is going to be dedicated to senior services.

In response to questions from AIPC members, Mr. Ellison provided the following information:

- a. Hoff asked Mr. Ellison about how aging in place is more than just senior centers and that it covers a very wide spectrum - like a senior's ability to stay in their residence or the community where they live. Mr. Ellison agreed and stated that the County has a "Chores Program" to assist seniors with tasks in order for them to remain in their homes and that the County is going to give this program a budget. Mr. Ellison also brought up the topic of elder abuse and discussed its relevance and his past legislative work on the topic.
- b. Pielack asked Mr. Ellison who he was speaking with on his visits to the senior centers and if he is seeing or hearing about any trends. Mr. Ellison stated that he meets mostly with the senior center directors and is taking tours of their facilities. Mr. Ellison stated that he has not taken enough calls in order to determine any trends yet.
- c. O'Malley asked Mr. Ellison if the various senior centers could help each other. Mr. Ellison responded by explaining that the senior centers can help each other and that he and the County are trying to achieve an "equitable balance" of services for all seniors throughout the County. This is especially true in areas such as housing and transportation. Mr. Ellison explained that transportation is key and mentioned that SMART has been a contributor to most of the senior centers.
- d. O'Malley asked Mr. Ellison about elder abuse, specifically about self-negligence or a person failing to take care of themselves. Mr. Ellison explained that he has not addressed that issue, but that the County Health Dept. would deal with that type of situation and also mentioned the "Nurse on Call" County program as well that seniors can use. Mr. Ellison also mentioned that the two main resources that he relies on are the AAA 1-B agency and the Oakland County Health Department.
- e. Braun asked about funding for senior centers and Mr. Ellison explained that many of the senior centers are funded with community funds (CDBG funds).

Mr. Ellison stated that communities had to apply for the funds and that it was a question of an "equitable distribution of funding."

- f. Mark asked Mr. Ellison based on his spreadsheet of senior center services, what was the age that most centers were using to determine eligibility. Is it 50? 55? 60? 65? Mr. Ellison explained that was a big question. Mr. Ellison further stated that there are all different ranges. However, in his mind, if a person is 50 or older and is asking for services, the services should be offered/provided.
- g. Pielack asked Mr. Ellison if the County had developed "best practices or standard practices" as it relates to adult services. Mr. Ellison explained he is working trying to achieve equitable services for all and that he has no staff at present to develop best practices at this time.
- h. Hoff asked Mr. Ellison if the County has financial requirements or levels that seniors must meet before to be eligible for specific services. Mr. Ellison stated that the County probably does, but was not sure of the requirements.

6. Review Committee Goals:

- a. City of Birmingham Demographics and Population Trends - SEMCOG Data
- b. Review Existing Senior Services and Identify Needs - NEXT Presentation
- c. Conduct Resident Surveys - Engage Birmingham/Survey Monkey/ Public Engagement opportunities (Farmer's Market, Winterfest, Library, NEXT)
- d. Planning/Building Presentation - Zoning laws and 2040 Master Plan Integration
 - i. Hoff stated that she felt this was a very important area to be examined by the committee and that creative ways for people to stay in the community or be with/near family are very important for senior health and well-being (emotional support as well).
 - ii. Pielack echoed Hoff's statements (all really good points) and agreed that this area was very important for the committee to examine - Being creative with housing and the expansion of services.
- e. There was a discussion on public engagement and the type of survey to be developed. Committee members agreed that public participation was important, that the committee should try and reach a cross section of constituents and to try and make contact with people who are not in the main stream.

7. Open to the Public for Items Not on the Agenda: None

8. Miscellaneous Communications:

- a. All communications attached to meeting agenda packet
- b. Proposed AIPC Project Draft Timeline (dated 7-25-2023)

9. Announcements:

- a. Each committee member was given a copy of a draft copy of a proposed AIPC project timeline for review.
- b. The following changes were discussed by the committee in reference to the project time line:
 - i. That the August 30, 2023 regular meeting of the AIPC will feature a discussion of NEXT. NEXT's existing operations and services will be reviewed and additional service opportunities discussed.

- ii. That the September 27, 2023 regular meeting of the AIPC will feature a presentation by the City's Planning Department and Building Department concerning zoning and the 2040 Master Plan integration.
 - iii. That in both the August 30 meeting and the September 27 meeting, demographic trends and information will be woven into the discussions.
 - iv. That an additional meeting will be added to the calendar for the AIPC on October 11, 2023 for a discussion of information to be used in the development of the survey to be distributed to the public. Further, that Staff Liaison ACM Clemence will author the survey based on the criteria established by the AIPC.
 - v. That on the October 25, 2023 regular meeting of the AIPC, Staff Liaison ACM Clemence will present the survey for review and edit by the AIPC.
10. **Adjournment:** With no further business being evident, Hoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 p.m. Seconded by Mark.