



**COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
TELECONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021 AT 10:30 AM**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER - Called to Order at 10:35 AM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Don Smarto, Freddie Evans, Prudence Mathis, Lorraine Rose, Barbra Thomas, Nancy Wooten, Lee Lee Lee and Cynthia Smith (arrived late).

Absent: Ann Hunter

INVOCATION

It is the custom and tradition of the members of the Commission on Aging to have an invocation prior to the beginning of its meetings. The invocation is directed to and offered solely for the benefit of the members of the Commission, though members of the audience are welcome to participate. However, members of the audience are not required to participate. The decision to participate is strictly a matter of personal choice and will have no bearing on any matter considered or decision made by the Commission during the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Motion made to approve the January 13th minutes by Prudence Mathis, Seconded by Barbra Thomas. Voting Yea: Chair Don Smarto, Freddie Evans, Prudence Mathis, Lorraine Rose, Barbra Thomas, Nancy Wooten.
2. Standing Updates:
 - a. Verizon Theater has become a COVID vaccination site. Play Grand Adventures tentatively reopening on March 1st. The Summit set to open March 1st as a fitness-only facility at a limited capacity. Reservations for Pickleball and Lap Lanes only. Voting for Grand Prairie District 2 Council member is going on at the Summit for Dallas and Tarrant County from February 10th through February 23rd.
 - b. Nutrition Update - 1,295 meals were served in January 2021.
3. Formation of a New Commission on Aging Mission Statement.

Prudence Mathis spoke about tips to create an effective mission statement. She offered ideas for a COA-specific mission statement.

Nancy Wooten also offered ideas on a new COA-specific mission statement.

All commissioners decided more discussion was necessary for this item and so the commissioners voted to table the conversation for the next meeting.

Motion made to table this item until the next scheduled meeting by Freddie Evans, Seconded by Chair Don Smarto.

Voting Yea: Chair Don Smarto, Freddie Evans, Prudence Mathis, Lorraine Rose, Barbra Thomas, Nancy Wooten.

4. Community Involvement Opportunities:

a. Review reports completed by individual commissioners.

Don Smarto:

The City Council room or associated meeting rooms are too difficult for Grand Prairie seniors to locate, in my opinion. If the Summit is not the best location for future meetings, there are many churches (some near the Summit) that can host meetings or programs. Assisted living facilities have rooms to accommodate special programs. (I have given three travel seminars at the former Atria facility). As health and safety improves, I suggest bringing Commission on Aging programs directly to the facilities (assisted living, rehabilitation, and senior living apartment complexes) as a service to those who reside there.

Freddie Evans:

“September Seniors” - annual city program initiative. The month of September will be identified as “September Seniors.” Promoting Activities in September (designate a day in each week)

Week 1: Grand Prairie Police Department (Senior Safety)

Week 2: Dubiski Culinary Department (Healthy Eating)

Week 3: Activities/Exercise (Promoting the Summit)

Week 4: Area Agency on Aging (Dallas Area Agency on Aging) – Medicare Benefits Counseling –Medicare/Social Security.

Barbra Thomas:

Suggestion to increase attendance for these presentations - offer an incentive for attendance. An example is to somehow earn points for attendance that can be used toward classes, services, food, purchases at the gift shop, etc. at the Summit (once it reopens). Presentations can be offered during the day and also in the evening which will allow working Seniors or members of the Summit to attend the presentation.

Lorraine Rose:

As allowed, continue with the informal programs/speakers from area agencies and the City of Grand Prairie which were taking place at the Summit monthly before the pandemic. These forums not only provided the senior population attending with information, but also informed the COA commissioners, aiding them in helping seniors when we are out working in other areas for the commission. Additionally, we should take advantage of the Summit’s joining population to spread the word about COA and the City Council. Each Commissioner would again be assigned a month for a speaker of their choice to come and speak.

Cynthia Smith: Senior Citizens Interacting with Students

AARP Foundation Experience Corps:

Tutors who devote 4 – 15 hours per week for a school year, focusing on literary skills development at the K – 6 levels.

Training, primarily on reading, is provided to each volunteer, with additional training on child development, tutoring and behavior management.

Jumpstart

Curriculum focused on preschoolers in under-resourced communities to provide individualized attention before they enter kindergarten, giving them the critical academic and social skills—the ‘jumpstart’—they need to succeed.

Bessie's Hope

Matches schools and other youth groups with nursing home and assisted living residents. The youth gain self-esteem, respect for others, life skills and academic skills, and the elders receive companionship, intellectual stimulation, and the chance to feel useful.

Questions:

Is there agreement on leveraging an existing program; or is the desire to build our own?

Is there a preference on age group? Some programs focus on early childhood, others on middle or high school.

Is there interest on working with schools to establish programs within senior centers or nursing homes?

Lee Lee Lee:

Add any COA info (fliers) to Summit lunch pick up. Ask GP Chamber of Commerce for discounts for GP seniors from their businesses. Request a table set up at the library (Conover) for month of February, April, June, October, & December) – “Ask me about COA.”

5. Discuss the meeting schedule.

Discussion on the possibility of meeting in person or videoconference – more information needed to continue this discussion. Next meeting date set for March 10, 2021 at 10:30 AM.

Motion made to set this next meeting date by Freddie Evans, Seconded by Prudence Mathis. Voting Yea: Chair Don Smarto, Freddie Evans, Prudence Mathis, Lorraine Rose, Cynthia Smith, Barbra Thomas, Nancy Wooten.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn at 11:34 AM by Freddie Evans, Seconded by Chair Don Smarto. Voting Yea: Chair Don Smarto, Freddie Evans, Prudence Mathis, Lorraine Rose, Cynthia Smith, Barbra Thomas, Nancy Wooten.

Certification

In accordance with Chapter 551, Subchapter C of the Government Code, V.T.C.A, the Commission on Aging agenda was prepared and posted February 5th, 2021.



Jaclyn Gunderson, COA Secretary