

Washtenaw County Commission on Aging

April 7th, 2023 | 9am – 11am | Remote Via Zoom

Sign up: <https://www.washtenaw.org/3402/Commission-on-Aging>

Join by Zoom:

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/83807707055?pwd=bVZjQ1ltdFIFemNRMmpreHd2YjYxQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 0770 7055 | **Passcode:** 516529 | **Join by Phone:** 267-831-0333

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Public Participation
- IV. Commission Response to Public Participation
- V. Approval of Minutes
- IX. Discussion Items
 - I. Presentations
 - I. County Wide Strategic Planning Process – Chris Lemon, Senior Community Investment Officer, AAACF
 - II. Portrait of Aging Adults in Washtenaw County – Stephanie Hall, Research and Advocacy Manager, AAA 1-B
 - II. Town Hall for Safety for Older Adults, Brenda McKinney
 - III. Subcommittee Updates
 - A. Communications
 - B. ARPA
 - C. Potential Millage
 - D. Moving Forward
- VI. Report from the Board of Commissioners
- X. Report from the Chair
- XI. New Business
- XIII. Setting Next Meeting
- XIV. Adjournment

The Commission's purpose is to define the needs of and advocate on behalf of Washtenaw County seniors 60 years of age and older to promote equitable well-being and quality of life opportunities and outcomes. This will include providing recommendations to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and relevant stakeholders on the prudent spending of public funds related to senior services.

Presentations that the Commission may hear at future meetings: How to use the Opportunity Index Tool, Safety, Housing, Socialization, Older Adult Data Projections, Highlights of Past Learning, Gun Safety for Seniors, Transportation

Washtenaw County Commission on Aging

March 3rd, 2022 | 9am – 11am | Remote Via Zoom

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AGENDA

I. Call to Order

Called by Chair Larson at 9am

II. Moment of Silence

[NOTE] Held for the victims of the tragic shootings at Michigan State University and the MSU community.

II. Roll Call

Present: Juliet Ballard, Marta Larson, Marie Gress, Margaret Reynolds, Elizabeth Thompson, Phyllis Herzig, Jennifer Heckendorn, Brenda McKinney, Annie Somerville,

Absent (excused): Jennifer Green

Number of Community Attendees: 7

III. Public Participation

[NOTE] Monica Prince from Ypsi Senior Center discussed the importance of a senior millage and the need in the community to support older adults in respite care.

IV. Commission Response to Public Participation

[NOTE] McKinney asks Prince what counties in MI do not have a millage. Prince states that all counties but about 9 do not have a millage.

[NOTE] Thompson states that during the previous year there was a subcommittee looking at the possibility of a senior millage and Thompson will share that information with the new members of the CoA. She also states that the CoA asked the county to provide information on what the county spends on senior services. To her knowledge, there has not been work done on this request. It is important for voters to know what the county is spending currently.

Future Presentations: How to use the Opportunity Index Tool, Safety, Housing, Socialization, Older Adult Data Projections

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[NOTE] Somerville responds saying she does not have much to update and will continue to follow up with the administration on this request. She says this will be included on the agenda for their working session moving forward so that there can be updates to provide at the CoA meetings.

[NOTE] McKinney asks Somerville to also provide an update on ARPA spending for older adults. Somerville said money was allocated for older adults and that money has not yet been disbursed.

[NOTE] Thompson states that previously the CoA had requested to be involved in the decision-making process for who would receive ARPA funds and requests advanced knowledge of what that timeline is once it has been decided. She hopes that community partners will have time to submit strong proposals.

[NOTE] Herzig states the importance of knowing how county funds are currently being spent on older adult services. She also says it's important to know what gaps there are and what services millage counties have that Washtenaw does not.

[NOTE] Reynolds states that timeliness is important because it will take a while to plan communication around a millage.

V. Approval of Minutes

Moved Gress, seconded Reynolds that the minutes of the 2.3 meeting be approved.

[NOTE] McKinney requests that the minutes be changed to reflect that she is retired. Gress moves the minutes as amended. Reynolds seconds.

Unanimous Roll Call Vote in the Affirmative.

Minutes Approved.

IX. Discussion Items

A. County-wide Master Plan for Aging

[NOTE] Gress states that Chris Lemon will provide an update on the Ann Arbor Community Foundation's county-wide Master Plan for Aging in April.

[NOTE] Larson requests everyone look up the Ann Arbor Community Foundation document on the needs of older adults which is on the county website.

Future Presentations: How to use the Opportunity Index Tool, Safety, Housing, Socialization, Older Adult Data Projections

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B. Future Topics for Discussions/Presentations

[NOTE] Thompson suggests going through highlights of the previous year's CoA to get new members up to speed. Larson said that this information was presented at the previous CoA meeting, but it may be worth diving in deeper into some topics.

[NOTE] Herzig is wondering if this group could make a recommendation for gun safety for seniors. She thinks a general statement would be helpful.

[NOTE] Thompson requests an update to the CoA on the discussions at the upcoming Transportation Summit.

[NOTE] Larson requests that the information on the HAC Transportation Summit be sent to the CoA panelists.

[NOTE] Deana Smith asks for the information to register to be sent to the full listserv for the CoA. She states that by the end of the summit, the group plans to provide recommendations on what could be done to address the issues discussed during the summit.

C. Name and Establish Proposed Subcommittees (Needs & Gaps, Communications, ARPA, Potential Millage, Age-Friendly Communities, others?)

[NOTE] Thompson is wondering if the CoA could expand Age-Friendly Communities to be more like a master plan for older adults in the county.

[NOTE] Herzig suggests avoiding the term strategic plan but thinks looking at environments older adults live in is important. She thinks a broader title could be useful.

[NOTE] Gress states that the Age-Friendly Communities' program is a structure developed by AARP that the CoA was looking at as opposed to a general idea.

[NOTE] Reynolds states that she believes the age-friendly approach by AARP is very broad. She suggests changing needs & gaps to older adult strategies or something similar.

[NOTE] Larson states that needs & gaps and age-friendly communities could be combined into a larger subcommittee.

Future Presentations: How to use the Opportunity Index Tool, Safety, Housing, Socialization, Older Adult Data Projections

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[NOTE] Thompson agrees that combining the two subcommittees gets to the root of each of the groups – a way to move forward while advocating for the needs of older adults in the county.

[NOTE] Larson suggests a subcommittee title of moving forward.

[NOTE] Subcommittees – Communications, ARPA, Potential Millage, and committee yet to be named consisting of needs & gaps and the age-friendly community’s plan (Moving Forward).

[NOTE] Gress states that subcommittees can always be added or removed as needed.

[NOTE] Reynolds states that people outside of the CoA can be included on the subcommittees if relevant.

Moved Ballard, seconded McKinney that subcommittees be established – Communications, ARPA, Potential Millage, Moving Forward.

Unanimous Roll Call Vote in the Affirmative.

Subcommittees Approved.

[NOTE] Communications – Jennifer Heckendorn, Elizabeth Thompson, Marta Larson

ARPA - Elizabeth Thompson, Jennifer Heckendorn, Margaret Reynolds, Marta Larson

Potential Millage –Phyllis Herzig, Brenda McKinney, Juliet Ballard

Moving Forward – Marie Gress, Phyllis Herzig, Brenda McKinney, Juliet Ballard, Margaret Reynolds

[NOTE] Reynolds thinks that Moving Forward and Potential Millage may combine in the future. Thompson requests that we not combine the subcommittees. Gress agrees as Moving Forward subcommittee will examine a variety of possible recommendations.

[NOTE] Thompson requests another member join the ARPA subcommittee. Herzig requests more information on the direction of the ARPA subcommittee and what they are tasked with.

[NOTE] Larson said each subcommittee will meet to discuss what their goals are and will add this as an agenda item for the next meeting. Larson asks each subcommittee to meet before the next meeting and states that members can join and leave subcommittees as needed.

D. Proposed Town Hall on Older Adult Safety

Future Presentations: How to use the Opportunity Index Tool, Safety, Housing, Socialization, Older Adult Data Projections

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[NOTE] McKinney states that she has heard safety as a concern for older adults. McKinney suggested having a town hall to connect older adults with resources and discuss their concerns. She thinks the CoA could be a part of this as well as law enforcement.

[NOTE] Somerville mentions that the prosecutor's office has a unit that could discuss different forms of exploitation at the town hall.

[NOTE] Thompson states it would be useful to involve programs who can assist older adults with their issues at the town hall. Individuals from Eastern Michigan University, Adult Protective Services, Washtenaw County Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Law enforcement entities, AAA 1-B, etc. She thinks a resource fair surrounding the topic of safety would be useful.

[NOTE] Larson, Thompson, and Heckendorn offer to assist McKinney in organizing this event. Gress also can assist with outreach and flyers.

[NOTE] Somerville states that the county can assist with the space and technical support to hold the town hall. She requests at least a month in advance to plan.

[NOTE] Thompson states that the group should think about the number of attendees, making it easily accessible, possibly a senior center.

[NOTE] Herzig states support for the town hall.

E. Bylaws Discussion

[NOTE] Larson states that the CoA can't change the bylaws but can suggest changes to the BOC and then they must be approved by the BOC. The changes are to increase the number of Member at Large positions and move the Commissioner position to a liaison as opposed to a voting member.

[NOTE] Larson clarifies that the idea would be that these changes would be recommended to take place as soon as the bylaws are approved.

[NOTE] Thompson asks for clarification on why the commission member was changed to a nonvoting member.

[NOTE] Larson suggests 13 commission members, 3 at large, and eliminate the part about the county commission representative being a nonvoting member.

Future Presentations: How to use the Opportunity Index Tool, Safety, Housing, Socialization, Older Adult Data Projections

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[NOTE] Reynolds states that she thought there was discussion on recommending staggered terms for commission members. Larson said it was suggested that the commission investigate it more and provide a recommendation.

[NOTE] Thompson states that as the commission appointments are tied to a county commissioner, the at-large positions could be staggered terms as they are not tied to a commissioner.

[NOTE] Reynolds suggests deferring the discussion on staggered terms and seeing how this has been done on other commissions. Ballard supports Reynolds in deferring.

Moved McKinney, seconded Herzig that the recommended bylaw amendments be sent to the BOC for review and approval.

Unanimous Roll Call Vote in the Affirmative.

Bylaws Approved.

VI. Report from the Board of Commissioners

A. ARPA Funds Implementation

[NOTE] Somerville will provide an update at the next CoA meeting.

B. County Fund Mapping Update

[NOTE] Somerville will provide an update.

[NOTE] McKinney asks for information on which counties do and do not have millages. Larson will provide information to the full commission.

X. Report from the Chair e

[NOTE] Larson presented the 2022 report to the BOC and Commissioner Hodges made a statement that the CoA is the most productive commission.

XI. New Business

[NOTE] Reynolds states that the time on the website isn't consistent with the time change to 9am for CoA meetings.

[NOTE] Thompson states Engage@EMU is creating an Intergenerational Institute to develop opportunities and programs encouraging interaction between younger people and older adults.

Future Presentations: How to use the Opportunity Index Tool, Safety, Housing, Socialization, Older Adult Data Projections

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[NOTE] Gress would like to discuss the opportunity index tool along with the older adult data projections at the April meeting.

XII. [Setting Next Meeting](#)

A. April 7, 2023 @ 9am

XIII. [Adjournment](#)

Motion to Adjourn. Move Gress, seconded Reynolds. Meeting Adjourned at 10:50.

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