



**Council on Aging Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 21, 2016**

Call to Order: Chair Sonja Heiser called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Council on Aging office, 3328 US Highway 51 North, Janesville, Wisconsin.

Approval of Agenda: Char Levzow made a motion to approve the agenda. Supervisor Norvain Pleasant seconded. All approved.

Roll Call:

Present: Nancy Arnold, Jean Boyle, Jim Farrell, Dawn Fossum, Sonja Heiser, Jo Ann Koltyk, Char Levzow, Supervisor Norvain Pleasant, Suzanne Rasmussen, Jenny Schmidt, Cherie Scholz-Baker, Pam Strom, and Chuck Wilson.

Excused: Peg Slaback

Unexcused: Aaron Thomas

Staff Present: Lachel Fowler, Julie Seeman, Molly Nolte

Introduction of Visitors: None

Approval of August 17, 2016 Minutes: Jean Boyle made a motion to approve the August 17, 2016 minutes, Jo Ann Koltyk seconded. All approved.

Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements: Jo Ann Koltyk mentioned seeing a past participant from a Lighten Up! class who was still excited about the class. She said the class is about "learning to bring joy back to your life" which might be a nice way to market the class. Jo Ann also mentioned Raven's Wish in downtown Janesville has a classroom area and might be interested in hosting classes.

Jean Boyle has been seeing ads on TV for an upcoming falls prevention class with the tagline "Leaves are for Falling." Char Levzow and Julie Seeman talked about the UW Extension research being done for the in-home version of Stepping On.

Staff Report:

Annual Caregiver Event: Julie Seeman said the Annual Caregiver Event was attended by 19 people in two sessions at the Welty Environmental Center at Big Hill Park. The attendance might have been affected by the location. Those who attended had a very nice time. The teacher was Vicki from Evansville Heights.

Senior Fairs: Julie Seeman said the Rock County Senior fair, was attended by about 800 people. Parking was an issue this year because there were large trucks and construction equipment that took up half of the parking. The Vendors enjoyed great discussion with attendees and workshops were well attended. There were many ECHO donations, used eyeglass donations,

and medications brought in. Generally, participants gave positive feedback. There was a record number of corporate sponsors. The fair will likely be around the same time next year.

Lachel Fowler said the Beloit Senior Fair will take place on October 4, 2016 at the Eclipse Center. It is Superhero themed. There will be around 66 tables and flu shots will be available. Set up is at 7:00 a.m. The Evansville Senior Fair is on October 5, 2016.

Update on Falls Workshops: Julie Seeman said the Falls workshops are ramping down as we enter the end of the year. There is a Stepping On class that starts October 10, but the others are done or finishing up. They are always looking for more facilitators for classes. Jo Ann Koltyk mentioned having Lighten Up! classes in the winter because people tend to be isolated in the cold months.

Purchase of New Transit Bus: Molly Nolte reported that a new vehicle has been purchased which is now the largest in the Rock County Transit fleet. The bus will be on the road once all the safety standards and wrapping are completed. One of the reasons for the purchase was to transport larger groups of people to sheltered workshops, thus eliminating the need for multiple vehicles traveling the same route.

Update on Mobility Manager Advocacy Efforts: Molly Nolte talked about the advocacy efforts of Mobility Management and the Transportation Coordinating Committee. The City of Janesville has installed crosswalks, curb cuts, and “yield to blind pedestrian” street signs near the Woodlane Road/Lodge Drive bus stop and the Kennedy Road bus stop for visually impaired pedestrians walking from the bus to Industries for the Blind. The TCC has also been made aware that Industries for the Blind and neighboring businesses are in conversations for installing sidewalks on the north side of Newport Avenue which would eliminate pedestrian barriers for those walking to Industries. Molly talked about the success in pouring a concrete slab at the Beloit Janesville Express bus stop in front of the Health Care Center. With this slab, folks in wheelchairs can be picked up by either Beloit or Janesville buses. It was a great partnership between departments, the County, and the City of Janesville.

Jim Freeman asked about the Senior Moments event at Hedberg Library on September 9, 2016. Molly Nolte gave a presentation to 43 seniors about driving safely, the warning signs of unsafe driving, and alternative modes of transportation in Rock County.

Mobility Manager Position: Molly Nolte informed the Board that she has submitted her resignation and will be leaving the county on September 30, 2016. She said that it has been an incredible experience and the best job she’s had. She also mentioned she’ll be volunteering her time to train the new Mobility Manager and leaving procedures and best practices behind to help with a smooth transition.

Reports:

County Board of Supervisors: Supervisor Pleasant met with someone at Grinnell Hall who asked about the Beloit Chore Service program. The food served at Grinnell is always hot and very good.

ADRC of Rock County: Dawn Fossum said that Long Term Support is transitioning into Family Care. There is a three year transition to get people off the wait list. There is a Dementia Tour coming up at the ADRC.

Long Term Support Committee: Nancy Arnold is unsure if the LTS committee will remain as the LTS employees are phasing out by November 1, 2016.

Items for Future Agendas:

Jean Boyle would like the Board to take a tour of the new Rock County Transit vehicle before or during the next Board meeting.

Nancy Arnold would like to learn more about the Beloit College Elderhostel program and classes.

Jim Farrell is interested in speaking with Rene Bue and Maureen Birchfield from Hedberg Public Library to talk about partnering on events/information.

Adjournment: Pam Strom made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Supervisor Pleasant seconded. All approved. Sonja Heiser adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Molly Nolte

Minutes not official until approved by the Council on Aging Advisory Board