

**Orange County Commission on Aging
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting – January 8, 2018**

Pine Hills Community Center, 6408 Jennings Road, Orlando FL 32818 * 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Vision	Create Positive Aging! An elder-friendly community that empowers older adults through choices that allow them to support and maintain their independence within their home community
Purpose	To identify the needs of the senior population and find ways to help by working collaboratively

Members Present

Mr. Gus Martinez, Vice Chairman
Ms. Sandria Foster
Ms. Kinda Haddah
Mr. Randy Hunt
Mr. Lynn Nicholson
Ms. Randiesa Spires
Mr. Lee Watson

Members Absent

Mr. Crockett Bohannon, Chairman
Ms. Edith Gendron
Ms. Aquasia Johnson McDowell
Dr. Carmel Munroe

Others Present

Ms. Mimi Reggentin, Office on Aging
Ms. Princessa Long, Office on Aging Intern

Meeting Notes

- Mr. Martinez opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The new Board members were introduced.

Consent Agenda

- Upon a motion by Mr. Nicholson, seconded by Mr. Hunt, the Commission on Aging minutes of July 10, 2017 and November 13, 2017 were unanimously approved.
- Upon a motion by Mr. Hunt, seconded by Mr. Nicholson, the Community Partnerships Committee minutes of June 27, 2017, September 5, 2017 and November 7, 2017 were unanimously accepted.

Community Partnerships Committee Update

- Ms. Reggentin provided an overview of the Community Partnerships meeting of January 5. This Committee was relocated to the Pine Hills Community Center and will meet on the first Friday of every other month. Dennis Latta from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs was the guest speaker and provided an overview of VA benefits and services.

Senior Resource Alliance Update

- Mr. Hunt stated the legislative session is earlier than normal this year. The state estimates there will be a \$1 billion shortfall in the state budget, thus additional revenues for elder services are not expected. Mr. Hunt stated the federal housing vouchers for Puerto Ricans are set to expire in mid-January. It is expected the elimination of these housing vouchers will mean more Puerto Ricans will look to relocate to the Central Florida area.

City of Orlando Mayor's Committee on Aging

- Mr. Nicholson stated there is no news with regards to the City of Orlando Mayor's Committee on Aging.

Commission on Aging Status Update

- Mr. Martinez provided an overview of the Commission on Aging's annual report for 2017. Highlights include the 917 volunteer hours associated with the Elder Ambassador program, the 697 people who attended a LIFE Information for Elders seminar and the more than 1,000 people who attended one of the two 50+FYI Expos.
- Ms. Reggentin commented that the LIFE Information for Elders seminar series experienced an increase of 127 people from the 2016 series at the Downtown Orlando Library. She asked the Board for their input on whether additional sponsorships should be requested to expand the lunch offerings. The Board concurred and directed staff to recruit a fourth sponsor and consider raising the amount of funding request of each sponsor.

Open Discussion on Commission on Aging Activities

- Mr. Martinez reviewed the tentative programming schedule for 2018. Ms. Reggentin stated there is a potential opportunity to conduct outreach to the faith community in 2018. This community outreach and education would mirror the training that will continue to be offered to former volunteers of the Elder Ambassador program. Ms. Reggentin stated that staff would need the Board to help connect to the faith community. The Board expressed support for a moving forward with developing a faith-based initiative. Discussion ensued. The Board stated several items to consider include potential sponsorship needs, potential partners and the need to develop a call to action. Mr. Hunt made a motion to defer a decision to the March meeting. The Board could invite members of the faith community to this March meeting and solicit their feedback and ideas for moving forward on this project. Mr. Nicholson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Reggentin asked the Board to forward the names of faith leaders they wish to invite to the March meeting of the Commission on Aging.

New Business

- Mr. Nicholson announced the Paramore Farmers Market held its grand opening on Saturday, January 6, marking the first time in decades that fresh fruits and vegetables have been available for purchase in the neighborhood in decades. More than 5,000 people attended this grand opening. The farmers market is opened Saturday's from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Mr. Martinez stated Miles of Help Through Christ held their annual Thanksgiving for the Homeless event on November 18. Over 1,000 people attended and were supported by 350 volunteers. In December, the Christmas Miracle for Kids was held at Fun Spot. More than 400 youth attended. More recently, a Three Kings Day event was held for local youth. Miles of Help Through Christ will be hosting their annual fundraiser at the end of February. The next community event will be March 31.

Public Comments

- There were no public comments.

Upon a motion by Ms. Haddad, seconded by Mr. Nicholson, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

MMR/