

Age-Friendly Hyattsville Work Group Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 26, 2023; 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Work Group Attendees: Lori Simon-Rusinowitz, Associate Professor, Health Services Administration and Center on Aging, Health and Aging Policy Fellowship Alumnae, School of Public Health, University of Maryland; Lisa Walker (W-2); Winifred Weaver (W-1); Scott Wilson (W-1)

Staff Attendees: Marci LeFevre, Age-Friendly Program Lead; Quianna Taylor, Senior Services and Wellness Coordinator

Age-Friendly Programming

Recent and upcoming workshops being planned by Age-Friendly Work Group members and City staff were discussed. Updates included:

June 12 Lunch and Learn Workshop

- On June 12 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the City of Hyattsville, Hyattsville Age-Friendly Program, and AARP MD Driver Safety Program will offer a safe driving resources workshop. The in-person workshop will cover driving safely (defensive driving), tips for making your car fit your needs, and tips for having difficult conversations with family members about giving up one's car keys. The workshop will be held at the Hyattsville Municipal Building.

Summer Programming

- Age-Friendly Program Lead, Marci LeFevre, shared that the City is planning multigenerational summer activities for June, July, and August. The events will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.; additional time will be added on the front and backend for City-provided transportation.
- Potential activities and tentative dates include:
 - ❖ June 22 – Bladensburg Waterfront Park Pontoon Boat Tour
 - ❖ July 20 or 22 – American Visionary Art Museum (Baltimore)
 - ❖ August 17 or 18 – Kennedy Center Tour, Washington, D.C., or Cookout at Driskell Park
- The activities, which bring older residents and youth from the City's Staycation Program together to learn, share, and enjoy a meal together, will be confirmed by the end of the month and promoted to the community.

May 15 Lunch and Learn Workshop

- On May 15 the Hyattsville Age-Friendly Program and the AARP MD Speakers Bureau offered a free workshop, "Brain and Body Health – Total Wellness: 7 Steps for Enhancing Your Health and Mental Wellness," in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. The in-person workshop was attended by fourteen community members and staff at the Hyattsville Municipal Building.
- Workshop presenter, Philip Gale, provided an excellent and well-received overview of the importance of fostering one's mental and brain health, intellectual wellness, physical wellness, emotional and spiritual health, and social wellness throughout all life stages.

April 28 Virtual Affordable Housing Workshop

- The Age-Friendly Program's virtual Affordable Housing Workshop was held on Friday, April 28 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for community members of all ages. City staff joined presenters from the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development and Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP) to discuss the status of affordable housing in the City and County,

what is being done to help residents experiencing financial hardship remain in their homes and communities of choice, available resources, and related items of interest to residents.

- The workshop was attended by twenty-five residents. Mayor Robert Croslin, Councilmember Danny Schaible (W-2), and Alexander Houck (City Council Ward 3 candidate) also attended.
- Presenters and partnering agencies or groups included:
 - Hyattsville Age-Friendly Program [Marci LeFevre]
 - Hyattsville Community and Economic Development Team [Holly Simmons]
 - Hyattsville Race + Equity Task Force [Shakira Louimarre]
 - Housing Initiative Partnership [Mary Hunter]
 - Prince George's Department of Housing and Community Development [Pam Wilson, Alexis Yeoman, and John Maneval]

Rent Stabilization Study

- In May of 2021, the City Council adopted a Housing Action Plan, a 10-year roadmap of policies, programs, and actions intended to enable the preservation and creation of affordable housing opportunities within the City of Hyattsville. In April of 2023, Council approved HCC-324-FY23, approving the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance on regulating the annual rate of increase in rental prices in Hyattsville. An assessment and modeling of the proposed rent stabilization ordinance will be conducted to inform City staff, the City's Attorney's Office, and City Council on how best to proceed.
- Marci LeFevre shared that a cohort of City staff led by Interim Community and Economic Development Director, Holly Simmons, will kick-off the rent stabilization study in early June with Enterprise Community Partners (ECP). Marci noted that she will join the City staff cohort and share updates with and seek input from the Age-Friendly Work Group as the project evolves. The project is expected to be completed by the Fall of 2023.

Affordable Housing Tactics

- Work group members discussed other affordable housing tactics included as recommendations in the Age-Friendly Action Plan explored at earlier Age-Friendly Work Group meetings. Two tactics of interest to the work group are seeing implementation of Home Sharing and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in the City of Hyattsville.
- ADUs or Tiny Homes are permitted in Montgomery County and the District of Columbia. Lisa Walker, Interim Chair of Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP), noted that ADUs may now be allowed in Prince George's County in designated "Enterprise Areas." Quianna Taylor shared that her understanding of ADUs is that Prince George's County has not yet approved them. If they have been approved, she noted that it would be on a limited basis such as the "Enterprise Area" exception mentioned by Lisa Walker. The status of ADUs will be explored.
- Two Age-Friendly Work Group members' experiences with pursuing approval (in Montgomery County and Prince George's County) to build ADUs were shared. Their experiences included lengthy, cumbersome, and expensive legal processes. The ADU option in Montgomery County was approved; the much earlier pursuit of the ADU in Prince George's County was denied. Work group members concurred that, even where ADUs are allowed, they may not be a solution for everyone as they can entail great costs.
- Home Sharing, discussed earlier with Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP), may be a more appealing and viable affordable housing tactic, if a program were to be implemented in Hyattsville and neighboring municipalities.

- Work group members suggested continuing to advocate for ADUs and Home Sharing as affordable housing tactics, with Home Sharing recognized as being the “lower-hanging fruit” of the two to be prioritized.
- Marci LeFevre will discuss revisiting Home Sharing with City staff and HIP and follow up with work group members to determine next steps when more information is available.

Key Updates

Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP)

- Lisa Walker shared that HAP’s Our Story Theater Program with Yard Dramas has been extended into the summer months. The final event, which the City of Hyattsville will support, is anticipated to be held in September.
- HAP, Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL), and Dementia Friendly America (DFA) Northern Prince George’s Sector are partnering to make the Stronger Memory Program available to area residents. The curriculum is designed to stimulate the brain’s prefrontal cortex, which governs the ability to retrieve memories. The program encourages participants to spend 20 to 30 minutes a day reading aloud and doing simple math problems. The evidence-based program has been shown to improve brain health in older adults.
- HAP and area Villages, Neighbors Helping Neighbors (College Park) and Helping Hands University Park, are planning events for their summer Corridor Conversations Program. Offerings include an event in June on Food Forests and Foraging and an event in July on the Uhuru Quilters Guild. For more information, contact HyattsvilleAginginPlace.org/events or HAPCares@gmail.com.
- HAP will continue its distribution of fresh produce to residents through the summer with grant funds received from the City of Hyattsville and Prince George’s County. Lisa Walker noted that HAP would like to expand the program. Referrals for food distribution can be given to Lisa Walker or sent to HAPCares@gmail.com.

Hyattsville Senior Services and Wellness Activities

- Quianna Taylor shared that the City’s weekly ZUMBA class will be moved to Hyatt Park for the month of June. The Wednesday class is held from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- The City held a Mother’s Day Hat Lunch on May 18 for residents coordinated by the Senior Services and Wellness Coordinator. The successful event was attended by 30 residents who enjoyed a painting activity and food catered by Between the Bread, a local business.
- Quianna Taylor noted that the City is planning an Embracing Pride Panel to be held on the evening of Friday, June 9, at the Hyattsville Municipal Building. Event planning is being led by the City’s Race and Equity Officer, Shakira Louimarre, with support from City staff and in partnership with the Race and Equity Task Force and Age-Friendly Work Group. Marci LeFevre noted that information about the event had been shared with work group members and suggestions for panel presenters and LGBTQ community resources were provided by work group members.
- Quianna Taylor shared that the City’s Juneteenth Summer Jam will be held on Friday, June 16 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Hyatt Park.

Other Business

UMD Hearing and Speech Science Department and Clinics (HESP) Collaboration

- Faculty from HESP contacted Hyattsville’s Age-Friendly Program Lead to discuss partnership opportunities with area organizations serving older adults and persons with disabilities. A meet and greet was suggested and a list of organizations provided to HESP that included the City, GAIL, HAP, and other area Villages. No follow-up action from HESP has yet occurred.

Property Relief

- The Prince George's County *2023 Elderly Property Tax Credit Application* (for Tax Year Beginning July 1, 2023) is available and being promoted to the community. City staff have received several resident requests for program information and are offering to assist community members with completing the application.

Other Business

Upcoming Age-Friendly Work Group Meetings

- June 23, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.
- July 28, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.