

Senior Advisory Committee  
**Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 18, 2018**  
2:30 pm, CA Headquarters Boardroom

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm.

**Members/Liaisons Present**

Michelle Miller (CA), Sharonlee Vogel, Patty Dugan (CA), Genie Wessel, Roger Chang, John Eberhard, Elizabeth Johnson, George Laniado, Jean Salkeld, Jennifer Lee and Mary McGraw.

**Excused:** Bernice Kish

**Absent:** Pearl Atkinson-Stewart, Arleen Tate, Paul Verchinski

**Introduction of Guests:** Beth Silverman, Howard County Office of Consumer Protection.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made and seconded to revise two items on the agenda. Motion approved.

Change #1: Voting on At-Large member Jean Salkeld.

Change #2: Move Chair's report after Liaison's report.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 2017 Minutes as submitted. Motion approved.

**Presentation: Beth Silverman, Howard County Office of Consumer Protection**

The Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) assists people with questions or concerns about consumer transactions - the purchase or rental of goods or services for personal or household use, or the extension of credit. OCP strives to protect Howard County consumers in a variety of ways; for example, mediating disputes, taking enforcement action, or providing tips on how to avoid scams or make smart purchasing decisions. It provides information about Federal, state and county consumer laws, and consumer rights and responsibilities. It offers education and outreach to the community on consumer issues such as a recent student loan forum. OCP and AARP Maryland will host a community shred event on March 18 at the East Columbia Library.

**Sharonlee Vogel, Chair's Report:**

- Lela Sewell-Williams is the new director of the Columbia Archives; founding director, Barbara Kellner, retired in January.
- Excite Columbia, CA's citizen academy, will be offered again in March. The academy educates and informs residents through an in-depth view of how CA operates and serves the community.
- CA will host two information sessions in February for those considering an opportunity to serve on CA's Board of Directors. Sessions will held at CA headquarters on February 20 at 7pm and February 24 at 10am.
- Columbia Clean Up Day will be held on March 24, a day for volunteers to help beautify Columbia by picking up trash in open space locations in all Columbia villages.
- Columbia Solar Cooperative will present an Information session about solar panels on February 20 from 7-8pm at the Owen Brown Community Center.

- FDP Planning Board hearing for the Lakefront Core will be held on February 1. Howard Hughes Corporation has requested changes to the 2010 Downtown Redevelopment Plan that would drastically alter the landscape of downtown and access to the lakefront. Any objections should be expressed to the Design Advisory Panel and your county Council representative. The requests are to
  - Increase building height limit from a maximum of nine stories to 15 stories
  - Extend Wincopin Circle involving removal of most of the trees south of the Teacher's Building and relocation of the "Hug" sculpture. This means that the "Hug Park" will be replaced by a road – right next the Lake front seating. This is against all the plans for downtown, making it "walkable", bike friendly.

The changes to building height and extending Wincopin Circle/street southward were both discussed in 2009 leading up to the 2010 Columbia Downtown rezoning – both were loudly rejected by the community. The existing restrictions were part of the compromise reach with HHC. Any objections you have should be address to the Design Advisory Panel and your County Council representative – loudly.

**New Business:** Sharonlee proposed the committee meet on a bi-monthly basis. The committee will discuss and vote in February.

**Old Business:** Voted reappointing Jean Salkeld as a Member At-Large of the SAC. Vote was positive.

**Liaison Reports:**

**Michelle Miller, Columbia Association:**

Michelle distributed complimentary books about a non-pharmacological approaches to slowing cognitive and functional decline associated with dementia. It was a follow-up from Home Care Assistance, the presenters at the November SAC meeting. Michelle gave updates on the CA Capital Budget process. Major capital projects include:

- Athletic Club and Supreme Sports Club will renovate locker rooms and showers, and spa/pool areas
- Swim Center will renovate the roof over the main pool
- Columbia Art Center and Stone House will undergo whole-building renovations
- CA is planning additional amenities around Lake Kittamaquondi such as adding exterior lighting on the paths from Clyde's Restaurant to the Kennedy Garden, as part of the master plan for the Lakefront.

**Patty Dugan, Columbia Association:**

Columbia Community Exchange time bank held a skill share fair featuring mini-workshops teaching Do-It-Yourself (DIY) skills, and a kitchen items swap. It was held in collaboration with Transition Howard County's Repair Cafe. CA is offering a social event for mature adults in February.

**Jennifer Lee, Howard County Office on Aging and Independence:** Offering an evidence based program “Stepping Up Your Nutrition” at the North Laurel 50+ Center in February. It is a combined exercise and nutrition program. OAI is working Shawni Paraska to present a six week program “Chronic Disease Self Management” at one of CA’s fitness clubs. The program is a partnership of OAI and Howard County General Hospital.

**Mary McGraw, The Village in Howard (TVIH):** TVIH is three years old and has 140 members, which is average, according to the national village network. TVIH will host a workshop, “Living Well with Hypertension,” beginning on March 16. It will be presented by OAI. Additionally, TVIH might apply to become a partner in the Maryland Department of Aging’s Communities for Life<sup>SM</sup> program. The purpose of the program is to assist Maryland seniors age in community.

**Member Sharing:**

**Sharonlee Vogel:** Attended the Time Bank skill share fair and Transition Howard County’s repair cafe. The fixers are attempting to repair her clock. The tennis facility in Long Reach will open in the spring.

**John Eberhard:** Trying to connect TVIH with Vantage House residents. Expressed his concern that Vantage House seniors do not know about transportation options for seniors in Howard County such as the Senior Events Shuttle and Neighbor Ride. John still organizes trips for TVIH.

**Genie Wessel:** Wilde Lake village board meeting is January 22. Slayton House offerings: Silhouette Stages’ Winter Cabaret on February 3; Beale Street Puppets’ Dig Those Dinosaurs on January 26; Bernice Kish Gallery features artwork by local artists Bonita Glaser and Joan Bevelaqua and photographer Rod Barr until February 10.

**Mary McGraw:** Dorsey’s Search is very quiet.

**Roger Chang:** King’s Contrivance’s Amherst House hosting a CA social event for seniors in February.

**Jean Salkeld:** Visited the indoor tennis facility at Owen Brown Center. Spring Pickleball league started; it is Monday nights from 9-10pm; non-member fee is \$5. Supreme Sports Club offers Pickleball on its racquetball courts; non-member fee is \$25. Jean is concerned by the price increase for non-members to play at Supreme Sports Club. She will voice her concerns at the next CA Budget Hearing. Sharonlee asked Michelle to share the SAC’s displeasure the price increase with the tennis department and the totally undesirable play time for seniors being 9-10 pm.

**Elizabeth Johnson:** No comment.

**George Laniado:** No comment.

**Adjournment:** At 3:40 pm a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.