

# BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES



**Building C, Space Coast Room  
Thursday, September 14, 2023  
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**CHAIR:** Dr. John Potomski, **Vice Chair:** Phil Koechlein

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Laura Anderson, Lisa Noble, Sandy Stauffer, Terry Stone, Judy Healy, Kia Quintana, Allison Adler, and Kerry Fink

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Corina Savela, Erika Orriss, Lizzie Johnson, Deidra Schubert

## **SUMMARY:**

**BREVARD COUNTY STAFF:** Alan Woolwich and Cindy Short

**Call to Order / Introductions:** Dr. Potomski called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. Roll call occurred by everyone present.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2023:** Minutes were reviewed by all members. Motion to approve minutes as presented made by **Phil Koechlein**; seconded by **Terry Stone**; approved by consensus.

**Guest speakers:** Alan Woolwich, Community Planner from Housing and Human Services, was invited to speak to the group about affordable housing projects that are happening in Brevard County. He works with the Affordable Housing Council and various funding sources that help contribute to the development of housing in the county. He provided a handout of different projects currently happening. He reviewed the different projects and stated that some of the projects have been constructed and others are in the very early stages of planning and may or may not happen. He explained that there must be a local match or contribution to some of these projects. We can partner with the cities, but we can only contribute to one which makes anything we do very competitive. Alan said we are starting to see the larger developers coming into the county from other areas of the state, and partner with local non-profit agencies to build more housing in Brevard. As Alan went through his presentation, a question was asked by **Phil Koechlein** if one of the developments would double in size, and Alan explained due to drainage and other factors, probably not. Alan continued through the remaining examples, providing explanations of the various phases they are going

through. Discussion among the members were about the locations of some of the projects. Alan said there are approximately 90 units under construction and more coming that are specifically for the senior population that are affordable. Alan explained there is a need to advocate for the newly created Brevard Housing Trust Fund for money that can assist our community. **Dr. Potomski** asked how the State and Federal funding is allocated; Alan said the numbers are populated based on the area's population. Dr. Potomski also asked about the Low Income Tax Credit program worked; Alan said he would provide a link for staff to share some of the online information to explain it better since he was not the expert. There was more discussion among the group about trends and advocating for additional funding. **Dr. Potomski** thanked Alan for his time and coming to inform them of the progress happening in Brevard.

**Legislative update:** **Phil Koechlein** reviewed the AARP Florida 2024 Legislative Priorities, put together for everyone to review and discuss. **Dr. Potomski** spoke about current issues with nursing homes and their quality. Phil suggested selecting a few priorities for the group to move forward. Discussion continued regarding which topics to select and why. The members selected Family Caregivers, Housing, and Elder Exploitation to include Fraud, Financial Exploitation, and Protection. **Judy Healy** made the motion to select these topics to move forward with, **Sandy Stauffer** seconded the motion; approved by consensus. **Dr. Potomski** inquired if there is a meeting that the members can attend; staff stated they will ask and bring the information back to the group. Staff will also forward their chosen selections to HHS Director Ian Golden.

**Advocacy:** **Dr. Potomski** asked if the sub-committee had met earlier, and staff reported they had met with Alan and spoke with him about their housing concerns and that he spoke with the group about his presentation for today. **Phil Koechlein** asked to make an announcement; he spoke about how much he has loved working with AARP and the Commission on Aging, but he will be retiring. He said the October meeting will be his last meeting. He has told AARP the same thing and said they need to appoint someone from AARP to the Commission on Aging. **Dr. Potomski** as well as others thanked him for everything he has done for the group, and **Dr. Potomski** said that he is hoping that AARP will be able to appoint someone to serve with our group. He added that everyone has certainly appreciated all his hard work and dedication to seniors in Brevard County.

**BCOA Newsletter:** Staff provided copies of the Senior Life newsletter so they can see the excellent article. Discussion continued about how referrals are done for Living Wills. Guests in attendance, Corina Savela and Lizzie Johnson, each gave suggestions on which agencies, such as the local Legal Aid, to assist those who come and ask for help with a Living Will. **Phil Koechlein** said there are other professionals that can assist and shouldn't require an attorney to be completed. **Dr. Potomski** stated that he also provides talks to groups on the importance of having a Living Will. **Lisa Noble** said that if a family member wants to become a guardian, they must go through an attorney. She added that a lot of times they cannot afford an attorney, so the person requiring guardianship is then referred to the Office of the Public Guardian. Ms. Johnson added that a lot of times the forms are not executed correctly, and therefore they are invalidated because people didn't fill them out correctly. Discussion continued regarding the importance of seeking the correct guidance regarding their assets and wishes.

Especially if a dementia diagnosis is given. Staff provided a copy of the next article for the newsletter “Ten Early Signs of Alzheimer’s”. **Phil Koechlein** made the motion to approve the article and **Sandy Stauffer** seconded the motion; approved by consensus.

**Staff Update:** Staff shared information about the next Boomer event happening on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Staff asked if the group wanted to continue to meet at 2 pm for the Advocacy or start fresh in January. After discussion, it was agreed by everyone to consider restarting for next year. Staff also reminded everyone that since next year is an election year, we may have to change our meeting place and to not be surprised if that happens.

**Member Updates:** **Dr. Potomski** reminded everyone that the Commission on Aging was a co-sponsor for the upcoming Space Coast Medical Director’s Association Symposium. He said the registration will be online only, and they are preparing to push out the promotions. However, he would like to know if the Commission on Aging would like to co-sponsor the event again; **Phil Koechlein** made the motion to co-sponsor, **Judy Healy** seconded the motion, approved by consensus. **Kia Quintana** provided an update about flu vaccinations at the Brevard County Health Department; the adult flu vaccinations won’t be provided this year, only the pediatric flu vaccinations. She said she would email an updated vaccination list for staff to send out to everyone. **Kerry Fink** reminded everyone about their upcoming fundraiser on October 7<sup>th</sup>. And he said they are having an Open House at their new location on Saturday morning, September 30<sup>th</sup> called “Cars, Coffee and Connect” at their office located at 1344 S. Apollo Blvd. Second Floor in Melbourne. Staff reminded **Terry Stone** to provide the Senior Santa article for the next newsletter, which will be for the November Senior Life. **Dr. Potomski** inquired about the upcoming annual Aging Matters fundraiser; **Terry Stone** stated it will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> 6:00-9:00 pm at Sprengerten, which is located at 2825 Eber Boulevard in West Melbourne and tickets are available on the Aging Matters website.

**Public Comments:** Erica Orriss greeted the group; she said she is running for office to help seniors and advocate for issues concerning all seniors in Brevard.

**Upcoming Events:** **Helping Seniors of Brevard Car Raffle** Saturday, October 7, 2023, **Boomer Guide Event** Friday, November 10, 2023.

**Next Meeting:** **October 12, 2023, 3:00 pm. Government Center** 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building C-Space Coast Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Viera, FL 32940.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.