

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON SENIOR SERVICES

Wednesday • January 21, 2009 • 1:00 P.M. – 2:50 P.M.

Comfort Suites (Oregon Conf Room) • 630 Hawthorne Street SE Salem, Oregon 97301

SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elaine Barrett
Peggie Beck
John Brenne
John Helm

Timothy McQueary
Lucy Morgan
Dolores Raymond
Remona Simpson

MEMBER EXCUSED:

Ross Mathews

Chris Flammang

GUESTS:

Suzie Clarke
Joan Staley

Janet Byrd
Patty Brost

Millie Salt

STAFF PRESENT:

Dawn Rustrum, Coordinator
Kelsi Eisele, Administrative Staff

AGENDA ITEMS:

Call to Order

- Introductions
- Review and Approval of Agenda
- Review and Approval of Minutes
- Announcements

Public Comment

CAPS Presentation

Oregon Housing Alliance

Members Items

- Housing Workgroup Update
- Volunteerism

Agenda Items for February Meeting

Adjourn

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CALL TO ORDER

John Brenne called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Introductions

Commission members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Members reviewed and approved the agenda.

Motion: Elaine Barrett moved to approve the agenda as written. Remona Simpson seconded the motion.

Vote: 7-0-0-3

Yeas: Barrett, Beck, Brenne, McQueary, Morgan Raymond, Simpson

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Excused: Flammang, Helm, Mathews

Motion carried.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Members reviewed and approved the minutes.

Motion: Lucy Morgan moved to approve the minutes. Tim McQueary seconded the motion.

Vote: 7-0-0-3

Yeas: Barrett, Beck, Brenne, McQueary, Morgan Raymond, Simpson

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Excused: Flammang, Helm, Mathews

Motion carried.

Announcements

- Dolores Raymond reported that she asked Representative Jeff Barker to allocate some housing funds to mobile home parks.
- Chuck Frazier reported on his review of the stimulus package that is coming out of the House of Representatives. Chuck talked about the \$1.1 billion to study changes in the access to drug therapies.

Action Item: Chuck Frazier will email article for Dawn Rustrum to email to the commission.

Action Item: Dolores Raymond will send John Brenne information on mobile home parks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CAPS PRESENTATION

Suzie Clarke, certified Aging in Place Specialist, presented on the Aging in Place certification program and home modifications.

The following items were discussed:

- Common changes as we age:
 - Hearing
 - Sight
 - Touch
 - Grip
 - Special Needs
- How well does your home meet your needs? (AARP Survey)
 - Conducting a home safety check can help people prevent problems that could lead to injury and/or loss of independence.
 - Assessing the current status of your home can help provide you with a list of items to consider for improvements.
- Steps/Stairways/Walkways
 - Are they in good repair?
 - Are the surfaces safe and smooth?
 - Are there handrails on both sides of stairways?
 - Are there light switches are both top and bottom of stairways?
 - Is there grasping space for both knuckles and fingers on railings?
 - Are the stair treads deep enough for your whole foot?
 - Would a ramp be feasible if necessary?
 - Are the thresholds flush with the floor and exterior?
- Floor Surfaces
 - Is the surface safe? Non-slip?
 - Are there throw rugs or doormats?
 - Is carpeting loose or torn?

- Are there level changes?
- Do you have to walk over or around cords or wires?
- Driveways and Garage
 - Is level parking space always available?
 - Is it convenient to the entrance?
 - Does the garage door have an automatic opener?
- Windows and Doors
 - Are windows and doors easy to open and close?
 - Do you have lever door handles?
 - Are doors wide enough for a walker or wheelchair? Minimum 32” clearance with 36” doors or offset hinges
 - Can you walk through the doorways easily?
 - Is there space to maneuver while opening and closing doors?
 - Does the front door have a view panel or peep hole at the proper height?
- Kitchen and Bath
 - Is the arrangement convenient and safe?
 - Can the appliances be opened easily?
 - Are stove controls easy at the front, easy to use and clearly marked?
 - Is the counter height and depth right for you?
 - Can you sit while working?
 - Are cabinet knobs or pulls easy to use?
 - Are faucets easy to use?
 - Do you have a hand-held shower head?
 - Are the things you use often on convenient shelves?
 - Do you have a stepstool with handles?
 - Can you get in and out of the tub or shower with ease?
 - Do you have a bath or shower seat?
 - Are their grab bars where needed?
 - Is the water heater regulated to prevent scalding?
- Lighting and Ventilation
 - Is lighting sufficient and bright enough for safety?
 - Do you have night lights where needed?
 - Is the area well ventilated?
- Electrical Outlets, Switches, and Alarms
 - Are outlets and switches at accessible heights and locations?
 - Are outlets properly grounded to prevent shock?
 - Can you eliminate extension cords?
 - Do you have smoke detectors and alarm system?
 - Is the phone readily available for emergencies? Does it have volume control?

- Can you hear the doorbell in every part of the house?

OREGON HOUSING ALLIANCE

Janet Byrd, Executive Director, reported on housing issues across the state of Oregon. Janet provided a handout and discussed the 2009 Housing Opportunity Agenda. She shared there is a need for affordable homes for hardworking families on fixed incomes.

Proposed sources of funds are:

- Increase the Document Recording Fee
- Devote Lottery proceeds
- Allocate General Fund to meet critical community needs.

The resources will be used to meet housing needs of low and very low-income Oregonians in both rural and urban areas. Oregon Housing and Community Services do have effective programs in place that maximize the impact of state dollars and support community efforts to meet priority housing needs. Shortages of affordable housing and homelessness affect all areas of Oregon. These resources will fund locally-based strategies to meet the needs of hard-working families and our neighbors on fixed incomes.

Priority uses include:

- Develop new housing
- Preserve existing rent subsidized housing
- End and prevent homelessness
- Homeownership
- Maintain a vital network
- Manufactured home parks
- Acquisition of land

John Brenne asked Janet what happens when people face foreclosure and what can be done to help them. Janet reported that there is a network called Regional Housing Centers where people can call to receive guidance during a foreclosure.

Janet asked the commission to consider endorsement of the 2009 Housing Opportunities agenda. John Brenne agreed to take her request to the full commission for consideration.

MEMBER ITEMS

Housing Workgroup Update

Tim McQueary reported on the housing workgroup meeting he attended. He shared that the workgroup is looking at using Money Follows the Person grant dollars to create a housing with services model for Oregon. Tim explained that the workgroup spent time identifying potential barriers in developing a housing with services model. Tim reported on what a housing with services model could look like.

Volunteerism

John Brenne shared his idea of the commission promoting and facilitating the creation of at least one volunteer center in Oregon. John asked that he be given the opportunity to study and develop his idea and bring it back to the committee in February for further discussion and consideration.

Motion: Peggie Beck moved that John Brenne further explore his idea around volunteerism and bring it back to the committee in February. Lucy Morgan seconded the motion.

Vote: 7-0-0-3

Yeas: Barrett, Beck, Brenne, McQueary, Morgan Raymond, Simpson

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Excused: Flammang, Helm, Mathews

Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

The following agenda items were identified for the February committee meeting:

- HUD Grant- OHCS Department
- OSU Website
- Member items:
 - Housing Update
 - Volunteerism

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:53 p.m.