

ATLANTA COMMISSION ON AGING
MARCH 17, 2009
MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Betty Holmes, Sallie Hughes, Pam Mayo, George Pilkington, Tinnie Prather, Delores Lattimore, Arthur Cole, Ernestine Mitchell, Helene Mills, Carol Edwards.

Excused Absences: Joyce Jones, Inez Heard, Sander Wilborn

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Betty Holmes, Chair.

Delores Lattimore offered Words of encouragement.

Mr. Pilkington read the agenda for approval. Agenda approved.

Carol Edwards read February Minutes. Minutes approved.

Delores Lattimore—Roll Call.

Committee Reports:

1), Transportation—Mr. Pilkington:

Late sending letter to Lisa Borders. He will send this week.

Spoke with Billie Ross (Marta) who reported that street construction is on hold in Senior Zones.

Senior Zone Policy—no movement to date. Department of Public Works is involved. There is money for the project; phase 1(\$131,000.00) Phase 2 (\$70,000.00). Mr. Cole suggested that we (Commission) write a letter addressing our support of the Senior Zone Policy. Each Commission member should contact their Council person to secure their support. Mr. Cole will draft the letter. Betty Holmes suggested going out to Senior Multi-Purpose Centers to make them aware of the Senior Zone initiative.

Plan: Letter writing campaign:

- a. Figures for Public Works—money available
- b. Letter from Board.
- c. Letter from each District Member.
- d. Visibility (showing up at meetings dealing with senior issues).

Next Transportation Committee meeting: March 19th.

2. Housing—Ernestine Mitchell

Attended meeting @ Civic Center involving housing issues for senior citizens. Changes in Housing Repair Program. Senior Connections, Senior Citizens Services and South Eastern are funded to administer the Housing Repair Program. New information on Reverse Mortgages.

Discussion on ways to get more seniors involved in advocating for themselves. The need to expand the dissemination of information to seniors.

3. Social Support—Carol Edwards

Reported that there is not a program which addresses installation of Break-out Burglar Bars. However, SCS which has funds for Home Repair may be able to help if individual requests are made through their application process for home repairs.

Atlanta Sanitation Department lacks consistency in collection trash. Pam Mayo will contact Sanitation/Public Service Chair, Joyce Jones, to have her investigate this situation.

Election of New Officers:

Carol Edwards was voted in as the Commission's new Secretary. Pam Mayo was voted in as the Commission's new Corresponding Secretary. (All members should call Pam when you will be unable to attend scheduled meeting).

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a presentation by Capt. Gardner and Lynn Gooch (Education Specialist, Fire Education Section) of the Department of Fire Rescue.

The presentation centered on Code: Sec 78-65 High Rise Residential Occupancy for the elderly. Copy of code was distributed to Commission members and can be found on the City of Atlanta web-site.

The concern of the Commission was whether or not the Fire Department was monitoring Hi-rise buildings to insure that they are in compliance with the Codes. Capt. Gardner assured us that these buildings are inspected yearly and that building managers are educated on what they need to do to be compliant.

The question of assistance for non-ambulatory residents was addressed. Each building should have a listening of non-ambulatory visible to Fireman so that in the event of an evacuation (due to fire, etc.) would have an awareness of these individuals.

The Department of Fire Rescue regularly provides educational programs on Fire Safety in Hi-rises, Senior Centers and Community groups. Pamphlets are distributed, Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Alarms.

Betty Holmes suggested that the Fire Dept. keep us informed on a regular basis on building inspections. After some discussion, the Commission members decided that this would not be necessary.

Capt. Gardner committed to drafting a letter to the Commission documenting what their procedure is and how they will commit to insuring that their inspectors are applying strict adherence to the Codes. We will put this information on the City of Atlanta-9(Atlanta Commission on Aging Link) web-site.

Some agendas items were not address due to the lateness of the hour. They will be addressed at the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Next meeting date: April, 21, 2009 @ 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Edwards--Secretary