

City of Birmingham
Regular Meeting of the Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee
November 8, 2023

Conference Room 202

151 Martin Street, Birmingham, Michigan

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham's Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee held on November 8, 2023.

1. Call to Order: AIPC Chair Hoff convened the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Melissa Mark, Pam DeWeese, Rosemary O'Malley, Rackeline Hoff, Rebekah Craft, Cris Braun Leslie Pielack, Jay Reynolds (alternate)

Absent: None

Guests: None

3. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular meeting of the AIPC on October 25, 2023

Chair Hoff asked if there were any comments or corrections to the draft minutes from this meeting.

- i. CM Pielack wanted to note that under New Business, Section A, she made the suggestion that the "Library" and the "Museum" could be combined under one box.
- ii. Chair Hoff stated that under Announcements, Section B, the date of the next AIPC meeting stated it would be on the 15th of November. The correct date should be the 8th of November.
- iii. Chair Hoff stated that under Announcements, Section D, the word "Farmers" is missing the letter "r."
- iv. CM O'Malley brought up that a member of the public, Joel Milinsky, who was in attendance at the meeting, stated that he represented the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham. CM O'Malley requested that this information be included in the minutes.

Chair Hoff asked for a motion to approve the AIPC minutes of October 25, 2023 with the above listed changes.

Motion by CM DeWeese to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2023 meeting with the above listed four changes. Motion seconded by CM Mark. Voice Vote:

Yeas: Hoff, Mark, DeWeese, Pielack, O'Malley, Craft, Braun

Nays: None

4. Guests: None

5. New Business: None

6. Old Business

A. Discussion /Edit of Ad Hoc Aging in Place Community Survey

i. Chair Hoff suggested to the committee that the committee begin by addressing the three questions identified by Staff Liaison ACM Clemence as needing feedback from the committee.

a. There is currently one open box under the introduction sentence (under the blue box) where respondents are asked about what is most important to them about Birmingham. The question is what would the committee like to add to it? CM Pielack and CM Craft suggested combining the "library" and "museum" boxes and opening up a second box. CM Pielack offered several suggestions: cultural, arts and entertainment. CM Braun suggested theatre and arts. Chair Hoff felt many of these suggestions were already addressed under "community and social activities" as recreational activities. There was also a discussion of separating out or removing the "trail system" which did not find consensus. CM Pielack asked about including churches and CM Craft suggested calling them "houses of worship." CM O'Malley stated that the group had three options: arts & entertainment, recreational activities and houses of worship. CM Mark suggested making the blue box smaller to accommodate all three options. There was consensus that all three choices would be added and the blue box reduced in size to allow for it. There was also consensus that the choices should be alphabetized.

b. In the section "Birmingham & Your Needs," There are two questions that have the word "senior" in them as opposed to "older adult." The first one is, "I would support an annual senior millage (one mill or less) to support ongoing senior services." After discussion, Alternate CM Reynolds and CM Hoff suggested the following, "I would support the continuation of the senior millage." After discussion, there was consensus on this change. In the second question, "I am familiar with Next, a nonprofit organization that is the City's primary senior services provider." After discussion, CM Braun proposed, "I am familiar with Next, a non-profit organization, providing activities and lifelong learning for older adults." After discussion, there was consensus on this change.

- c. Chair Hoff suggested that with the known questions out of the way, the committee should start at the top of the Community Survey and work down.
- B. Title Block – No Changes
- C. Blue Block – Action Plan for Older Adults
 - i. See Section A (i) (a)
- D. What is Important About Birmingham Introduction Question
 - i. See Section A (i) (a)
 - ii. After group discussion, the box for “variety of stores and restaurants” would be changed to “shops and restaurants.” There was consensus for this change.
- E. Demographics
 - i. In the age range boxes, CM Mark stated that the range for the box for 75-85 should be changed to 76-85. There was consensus for this change.
 - ii. In the question, “If not employed, would you like to re-enter the workforce?” There was discussion about adding a third box in the space available. After discussion, there was consensus to add a box that stated, “Considering it.”
- F. Birmingham & Your Needs
 - i. CM Craft suggested removing the word “offerings” from the question, “I am familiar with Next’s comprehensive support services.” After discussion, there was consensus for this change.
 - ii. CM Mark stated that the word “services” is repeated several times in the question and to her was problematic. CM Pielack agreed. After discussion, it was determined that the question, “I am familiar with Next, a nonprofit organization that is the City’s primary senior services provider” should be changed to, “I am familiar with Next, a non-profit organization that is the City’s primary provider of lifelong learning and activities for older adults.” There was consensus for this change.
 - iii. In the question, “I am familiar with Next’s comprehensive support services offerings,” CM Craft stated that she felt the word “offerings” could be eliminated. There was consensus for this change.
- G. Transportation
 - i. CM Braun wanted the question, “I am familiar with the City’s partnership with SMART to provide transportation to local appointments/destinations” to change to reflect that fact that Next is the organization that actually partners with SMART. After discussion, the consensus was to make the following change to the wording of the question, “I am familiar with the City’s partnership with Next to provide SMART transportation services to local appointments/destinations.”
- H. Housing
 - i. Chair Hoff stated that she felt that “assisted living” or “nursing homes” should be added to the boxes of choices for the question, “I would like to see the following alternative housing options in Birmingham.” There was debate amongst the committee as to the proper wording of options of the

terminology proposed by CM Hoff. After discussion, there was consensus that a box would be added that read, "senior living facilities." CM O'Malley also suggested that the options for the boxes for this question should be alphabetized. There was consensus on this change. Also in reference to this question, the committee discussed at great length which alternative housing options should be included and which should not. After discussion, there was consensus on that "townhouses," "multi-family buildings" and "duplexes" should be removed and replaced with "rental units" and "small/tiny home." Finally, CM Craft felt the question itself should be reworded. After discussion, there was consensus that the question should read, "I am interested in the following alternative housing options in Birmingham."

- ii. Chair Hoff indicated that she felt that the "affordability" of Birmingham question was not being adequately expressed in the survey. Chair Hoff stated that the "affordability" of Birmingham is a "major factor" in an older person's ability to stay in Birmingham. CM Braun also brought up the "affordability" issue as it relates to young families being able to come into Birmingham and its trickle-down effect on schools. There was a great deal of discussion on this topic by the committee. There was consensus that an "affordability" question should be added to this section. After discussion, there was consensus to add the following question, "The affordability of housing is a factor in my decision to remain in Birmingham."
- iii. In the last question in this section, there was discussion on adding additional boxes to the question and rewording the question, "Do you have concerns about aging in your current home?" After discussion, the question was reworded to state, "I have the following concerns about aging in my current home. Check all that apply." Two additional boxes were added, "unable to care for my property and "stairs or other physical barriers." There was consensus for all of the changes.
- iv. CM Craft stated that she felt the order of the questions in this section should be reexamined. After discussion, the questions were reordered as follows:
 - a. I feel safe in my residence.
 - b. I am able to modify my residence so I may age in place.
 - c. It is important to stay in my current residence as I age.
 - d. The affordability of housing is a factor in my decision to remain in Birmingham.
 - e. Birmingham offers a variety of living options for older adults.
 - f. I am interested in the following alternative housing options in Birmingham. Check all that apply.
 - g. I have the following concerns about aging in my current home. Check all that apply.

There was consensus for the order by the committee to incorporate this change.

I. Social & Civic Engagement

- i. In the first question, "I am satisfied with Birmingham's civic destinations and outdoor spaces." After discussion, the question was reworded to "I am satisfied with Birmingham's civic destinations and outdoor spaces and facilities." There was consensus to approve this change.
- ii. CM Mark brought up the question of whether or not the issue of restrooms should be brought up in the Community Survey. CM Mark felt that there was a direct tie into this issue as it related to the City Master Park Plan. After a great deal of discussion, a voice vote was held to see what interest the committee had in including a restroom question in the survey. The result was 6-1 in favor of inclusion (Chair Hoff was the lone dissenting vote). After discussion, there was consensus that the question, "Birmingham has accessible parks and facilities, including public restrooms" should be added to the "Birmingham & Your Needs" section of the Community Survey.

J. Communications

- i. In the first question, "What is your primary source of City information?" There was consensus that the sentence "Check all that apply" should be added
- ii. For the next three questions, CM Craft felt that all three questions could be shortened and combined into check box questions. Question two in this section would read, "I would like more information about older adult services?" Question three in this section would read, "I would like to receive a weekly phone call to check on my welfare?" Question four in this section would read, "I would like to be contacted for a personal interview regarding my survey responses?" Each of the above listed three questions would have check boxes next to them of "Yes" or "No." There was consensus for these changes.
- iii. CM Hoff offered that she felt an "additional comments" section would be nice if there was sufficient room. As a result of the above changes in section (ii.), more space was created to allow for a line for a respondent's contact information. After discussion, the final question/statement was reworded to the following, "If you have additional information you would like us to consider as we develop an action plan to help older adults age in place, please add additional pages or email clemencem@bhamgov.org." There was consensus for this change.

K. Submit Your Survey

- i. In line one, there was consensus to remove "Older Adult's Survey" with "Aging in Place Survey." There was consensus for this change.
- ii. Alternate CM Reynolds suggested in line one that the word "Street" could be removed to save space. There was consensus for this change.

7. Open to the Public for Items Not on the Agenda: None

8. Miscellaneous Communications: None

9. Announcements:

- i. Staff Liaison ACM Clemence asked AIPC members if they wanted to meet again to finalize the Community Survey or have City Staff make the changes. After discussion, it was decided that the AIPC would meet on November 15, 2023 at 4:00 pm for a final discussion on the Community Survey.

10. Adjournment: With no further business being evident, Chair Hoff closed the meeting. CM Craft made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 pm. Seconded by CM Mark.