



Hampton Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
Hampton Senior Center, 3501 Kecoughtan Road
August 7, 2023

Call to Order and Welcome

Vice Chair Lewis Dawley III opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance and reminded all that the attendance sheet at the back of the room was to be signed upon arrival.

Roll call & Approval of July Minutes

Present: Lewis Dawley III- Vice Chair, Lynda Burke, Martha L. Clark, Tonya L. Grant, C'Faison Harris, Phyllis Porter, Cassandra Alston-Townsley

Absent: Linda H Kindred-Chair, Camilla Doctor, Martha Johnson

City/Lead Agency Reps: Mayor Donnie Tuck, David McCauley (HPRLS), Susan Elswick (HPRLS), Shantel Hudgins (HPRLS), Shaeron King (HPRLS), La-Netta Davis (PAA), Julie Savage (PACE), Stephanie Taylor (Foster Grandparent Program), Phyllis Palin (Hampton Human Services)

Guests: Jonathan McBride, Audrey Johnson, Georgia Scott, Lettie Lawrence, Selma Toon, Donna Little, Nancy Glenn, Sherri Payton, Gloria Gross, Cynthia Clay

Shantel Hudgins conducted the roll call; a quorum was present. The opportunity was given for the advisory board to review the July minutes. A motion to accept the July minutes as written was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Opening Remarks

Director McCauley gave some additional opening remarks and proceeded to discuss informative updates on special current and future events that are to occur in the city in the coming weeks/months.

- ❖ The community center gaming initiative is progressing at Westhampton Community Center, North Phoebus Community Center, Northampton Community Center, and Fort Monroe Community Center. Each of the gaming centers will be upgraded and will also be programmed for the kids.
- ❖ The Rec 'N' Roll Scuttle Bus is a program available for the youth/teens during the summer months. The scuttle bus goes to different locations such as local parks and apartment communities where

there is a variety of activities available as well as the use of the gaming bus. The program is available on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 5pm-8pm.

- ❖ HPRLS is introducing a new program called "Parks After Dark: Making A Splash" which will be held on August 23rd at Buckroe Beach. The target audience are youth and teens across the city of Hampton. It will be similar to the Rec 'N' Roll Scuttle Bus but more amplified and formalized.
- ❖ The Resilient Hampton Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held on August 18th at 11am at Freeman Drive.
- ❖ The Groovin' by the Bay series will be wrapping up on August 27th from 5pm to 9:30pm at Mill Point Park. The final Groovin' by the Bay for the year scheduled for August 27th will be in celebration of Hampton being recognized as an All-American City.
- ❖ The Crabtown Seafood Festival will be held on September 2nd at Mill Point Park from 11am-7pm.
- ❖ The Bluebird Gap Farm Festival will be held on October 21st & October 22nd at Blue Bird Gap Farm from 10am-5pm.
- ❖ The Holly Day Parade will return on December 9th at 5pm along with the new Downtown Hampton "Block Lighting" party and Holly Days Market on December 8th at 5pm.

Presentation (Housing and Neighborhood Services Division)

Director Dave McCauley closed out his remarks and introduced Jonathan McBride, the Housing and Neighborhood Services Division Manager, as the speaker for the presentation.

Jonathan thanked everyone in attendance for inviting him as the guest speaker for today's SCAC meeting. He began his presentation by sharing the importance of neighborhoods as the start/beginning stage when it comes to services and resources for seniors in our community. His philosophy is that we don't solve our community issues just by the city alone but it really starts with neighbors caring for neighbors.

There are factors that go into solving community issues to include building connections and asset-based community development (strong foundation). Start with a strong foundation to building those relationships where we view people in the community is all having assets and can contribute to their neighborhood. They also include marginalized individuals (example homeless) that may not be doing good for the community, but still have something to contribute. These individuals usually made decisions or choices in their life that left them in those situations, but they find a way to include even the marginal in the conversation. Another factor includes connections and mobilizers which is when communities began to flourish when people have resources that they can connect within their community. Broad connectors that connect to resources or institutions also play a key role. They look for people who motivate who are the people that motivate and bring people together as well as include diverse voices to create vibrant and thriving solutions.

Jonathan began to speak on the kind of services that they provide such as neighboring services. This brings in the conversation about neighboring versus volunteering. Individuals volunteer for institutions or organizations due to being outside of their own community. However, individuals "neighboring" because it's within their community/neighborhood. He also begins to explain the vitality of the idea of neighboring

services starts within the Community Development Office for the city of Hampton. They offer first as the neighbor commission which acts similar as a representative for neighborhoods. The neighbor commission is made up of ten (10) district commissioners who are represented from ten (10) different areas across the city. There are also eleven (11) different commissioners including institutional representatives from nonprofits faith-based schools. The neighbor commissions work on broad issues around neighborhoods and also administer the grant programs. The neighbor commission has a chance to be that representative body for organizations in the city. This becomes a strategic plan for the Housing and Neighborhood Services Division with a staff of seven (7) to engage with a population of 135,000 people. The Housing and Neighborhood Services Division uses resources such as neighbor commission and organizations to help engage with the large population.

Jonathan briefly discussed a few programs that is being offered such as the leadership academy which is a leadership series that includes six to seven sessions. It will be an opportunity for leaders to learn about how to organize your neighbor, how to connect to your neighbors, how to develop a project, and how to apply for or find resources in the community. It is considered to be a leadership skill-based series.

Jonathan details the importance of the social infrastructure to their work is the registered neighborhood organization program. The registered neighborhood organization approach helps The Housing and Neighborhood Services Division to understand the groups within our community. Currently, there are about thirty-five (35) registered organizations ranging from neighborhood watches to homeowner's associations. He expressed that organizations don't have to be a very highly organized group, but must be a group that is working in the community as a representative. The registering process can be done on the city website.

Also, one of the main areas of work that The Housing and Neighborhood Services Division is involved with is the neighborhood grant program. There are two neighborhood grants that are offered. The grants are not only about the funds, but about the process. They offer grants to help organizations get together and plan things which helps individuals get to know one another. It's an opportunity to find out their priorities and see the things that are important to them. It can also build their skills where if one can apply for a grant and become successful in it, then the individual could do more grants and find other resources to be able to plan projects. The first grant is called "Space & Places" grant which is a physical grant program for public improvements in public areas. The second grant is called "Community Connections" grant which involves connecting the community such as building your organization. It's important to get registered first and then the organization can speak with the Housing and Neighborhood Services Division about the resources. He also mentioned and gave recognition to agencies that does a great job around senior neighboring resources such as PAA's "Caring Neighbors" program, the Sheriff's Office "TRIAD", and the Foster Grandparent Program. Neighborhood organizations can register at hampton.gov/neighborhoods and also apply for grants through the city website.

Jonathan introduced Sherry Payton from Hampton Development and Housing Authority to speak about the housing programs. They are a HUD approved housing counseling agency that have HUD approved housing counselors. The Housing Authority can also help with negotiating contracts with your mortgage company. They also do financial counseling such as refinancing. One of their main priorities is their weatherization and accessibility program. With weatherization, an individual can get up to \$30,000 in grant

funding which allows any weatherization in one's house such as air system installation. The accessibility program is focused on items such as wheelchair ramps, guard hand rails on the tub, and etc. There is currently a waitlist for the weatherization program and they are working through the list as quickly as possible.

Jonathan shared that one of their partners that they work with is Habitat for Humanity which is what they call their Community Housing Development organization on the peninsula. Habitat for Humanity offers two main programs and they are also more neighborhood base. They're not just offering citywide, but two very specific areas. One of the programs Habitat for Humanity coordinates is the "Home Repair Blitz" which is an one day event where 200 volunteers work in the neighborhood to work on exterior parts of houses of cleanups, painting, railings, and etc. Prior to COVID, this opportunity was available twice a year. However, the program has scaled back to once a year since COVID. The next opportunity will be available on September 23rd. For more information, please visit <https://habitatpgw.org/home-repair-blitz/>

Another program that Housing & Neighborhood Services are working with Habitat for Humanity is called "Rock the Block". It is a home improvement matching grant program. The program assists homeowners, renters, and landlords with their residences in targeted Hampton neighborhoods to make exterior improvements to the outside of their homes. Jonathan ended his presentation and opened the floor for any questions. Lewis thanked Jonathan and Sherry for the wonderful and informative presentation.

Subcommittee Reports

Hospitality Committee:

Cassandra Alston-Townsley shared the following information:

- The next meeting will be held on September 12th at 9am within the Senior Center.

Mayor's Town Hall Committee:

Lewis Dawley III shared the following information:

- The next meeting will be held on August 7th right after the SCAC meeting.
- Lewis also gave an opportunity for Mayor Tuck to speak. Mayor Tuck shared that he is interested in visiting residents at senior housing complexes to conduct a mini town hall for the seniors. Mayor Tuck also briefly spoke about the tax freeze on real estate taxes. The taxes will remain at a particular level and will not increase. There is also the concept of deferral which is when one can live within their house without paying any taxes except at the time that maybe there's a life change. The tax freeze and deferral plans are available by applying to the Commissioner of Revenue offices.

PAA:

Bill Massey shared the following information:

- A reminder was shared that the Annual Community Forum on Aging is scheduled for March 6, 2024. The planning committee is working hard on development to find another great keynote speaker and workshops.
- The Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services recently created a division of for aging which has been a two (2) year effort at the state level to increase the priority for older adults in the Commonwealth. The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services is hiring a Deputy Commissioner for Aging for the state of VA.
- PAA is offering transportation services to those who need help getting to the VA Medical Center. Please contact the PAA office to coordinate transportation. A 48-hour advance notice is required.
- PAA's budget comparison between 2023 and 2024 indicated that the federal funding will be reduced by 33%. PAA is asking for individuals to advocate with their representatives at the state level and also the federal level to encourage them to do the right thing by seniors in our community and across the Commonwealth.

Foster Grandparent Program:

Stephanie Taylor shared the following information:

- The Foster Grandparent Program is preparing for their volunteer orientation in October 2023. More information will be available soon.
- The Foster Grandparent Program has also expanded volunteer participation from Williamsburg.
- It was encouraged that individuals that are 55 and over to become a foster grandparent program.

Public Comment

Lewis gave an opportunity for visitors/guests to speak. Julie from PACE shared her appreciation for the SCAC meetings. The meetings have provided her with information and resources. A visitor brief discussed her concern on the issue of financial assistance for senior living in apartment communities as well as the safety for seniors within apartment communities.

Adjournment

Lewis closed the meeting and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the SCAC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

Minutes submitted by Shantel Hudgins, SCAC Recorder