MEETING MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGING

LOCATION: Hale Senior Activity Center
330 Douglas Avenue, Dunedin, FL 34698

DATE / TIME: August 24, 2026, 9:00 AM

Officers Present: Cindy Cole, Cara York

Members Present: Denise Gammonley, Teresa Conte, Coleen Coble, Michael Post, Arlene Ryan Veldhuis, Maryanne Fisher, Stella Moya and Monica Kok.

Excused Absentees: John Oliva

City Staff Present: Nichole Allen - Hale Center Recreation Coordinator, Heather Drake – Deputy City Clerk, Michelle Wells - City Clerk, Tony Mulkey - Dunedin Parks & Recreation Director.

Friends of DCoA/Guests: Georgia Smith – Neighborly Care Network, Maria Amado & Melanie Callahan – Empath Life PACE Program, Jolene Hickman, Lorra Kaye Otto, Shari Bodnoff, Athena Kelly, Linda Fagan, Nan Bennett – running for City Commissioner.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair, Cindy Cole, called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE**
   a. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   b. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Cindy announced the agenda item.
      MOTION: Motion was made by Arlene and seconded by Maryanne to approve the July 27 meeting minutes.
      VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.
2. **PRESENTATIONS**
   a. **Seniors in Service:** Chris Noble did not attend the meeting as scheduled. Michael will reach out to him to reschedule for October.
   b. **City Clerk – Sunshine Laws:** Michelle reviewed the basic info of the Sunshine Laws and answered questions for the Committee.
3. **NEW BUSINESS**
   a. **Annual Planning Initiatives:** Annual Planning will be September 28th, 9 – 11AM.
   b. **New Applicants for DCoA Membership:** Cindy gave each new applicant time to tell us who they are and why they are interested in the committee: Jolene Hickman, Lorra Kaye Otto, Shari Bodnoff, Athena Kelly, Linda Fagan.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
   a. **Creative Expressions Contest:** Schools have been contacted. Georgia went to MLK Center as well. Non-monetary prizes have been secured. John reached out to AAAPP for the monetary prizes and has not heard back from them, so Maryanne is going to try to reach them. The Judging criteria was discussed per the handout provided.
   b. **Social Connections Survey:** No update.
   c. **AARP Livable Communities Update – John Oliva:** No update.
   d. **Public Relations Update – Maryanne Fisher/Nichole Allen:** Facebook info about the committee and membership has been successful in getting applicants. Information was also included in the Dunedin News emails. Monica spoke with the City's Communications Dept. to assist in creating a flyer to hang in City buildings about our Committee and what it does.

e. **Friends of the DCoA Updates:**

- **Neighborly Network – Georgia Smith:** Mentioned that volunteers are always needed, especially in the off-season - driving seniors to Dr appts and coming to their daycare facilities to sit with people and chat with them, play games, etc. David Lamoka, Executive Director, left the organization, and the Financial Chair (Jenny) is stepping in temporarily.
- **Empath Life (PACE Program) – Maria Amado & Melanie Callahan:** Their organization helps with transportation, meals, and they have an adult daycare center as well. They are interested in participating in the many health fairs this fall around Pinellas. Please let them know about any in the area, along with Rotary Clubs looking for speakers.

f. **Staff Liaison Update – Nichole Allen:** There are currently 2 Committee positions open. At the September meeting, we will vote to move Denise and Teresa up to regular membership and will vote to include two new alternates.
Nichole has made extra copies of the Creative Expression Contest flyer and distributed around town.
Senior Hall of Fame tentative date is May 5th.
Nichole mentioned that the September Newsletter will be out soon, as a resource for those looking to get more involved with seniors. She also noted that the First Contact Directory is another great resource for seniors.

5. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Michael mentioned the BLS SPARK Committee will be hosting a Drag Queen Bingo on 9/14 to raise money for their programs for the elder LGBTQ community.
- Maryanne spoke about the Arden Courts seminar for caregivers on September 24th about dementia.
- Coleen started volunteering with Meals on Wheels and wanted to do a plug for the rewards of volunteering with that program.

6. CITIZEN INPUT

No additional citizen input was received.

7. NEXT MEETING: September 28, 2026

Topics for the agenda:

New Business:
Annual Planning
Old Business:
Creative Expressions Contest
New Committee Applicants
AARP Livable Communities
Public Relations
Friends of the DCoA
Staff Liaison Update
Good of the Order
Citizen Input

8. ADJOURN MEETING

Chair Cindy Cole asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Motion was made by Denise and seconded by Arlene to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cara York, Secretary
City of Dunedin Committee on Aging

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