



Commission on Senior Issues

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 505-8563

Meeting Minutes – University City Commission on Senior Issues June 20, 2016

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: Margaret Diekemper, Mary Hart, Sue Slater, Elaine Henton, Bill Thomas, Marcia Mermelstein (Senior Coordinator), LaRette Reese (staff Liaison)

Guest: Wayne Flesch, Shawn Rimerman and Angela Haas, ComForCare Home Care

Ms. Margie Diekemper called the meeting to order at 6:13PM

Roll call was done by Ms. LaRette Reese

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Slater moved to approve the meeting minutes from the April 26, 2016 meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Thomas. The motion passed.

Guest representatives (Shawn Rimerman and Angela Haas) from ComForCare, a new home care agency were present and gave a brief overview of the services they offer for older adults. They offer services such as medication reminders, meal preparation, companionship, light housekeeping and limited transportation. ComForCare is a home care agency, unlike a home care agency with offers medical assistance.

Ms. Mermelstein provided an update on the many activities and meetings that she's been involved with, including members of the school district, the religious organizations as well as others associated with older adult services. The mailing distribution database is up to 50 people and there are about 8 people confirmed to be on the program committee that will look for ways of providing or improving social and educational programming, fundraising as well as other areas. The article for the July/August issue of ROARS was accepted and submitted. The article outlines the "Taking Care of Our Parents...and Ourselves" workshop series to be held in the fall. The four workshops are Retirement 101-Your Personal Roadmap to a Better Retirement, How to Talk with Family Members about what's Important At The End of Life, Getting Your Parents (or Your) Legal Matters in Order and lastly Navigating the Medicare Maze. There was a recommendation to hold a training to teach seniors how to use tech devices; such as smartphones and tablets.

Unfinished business items were discussed, which included the need to fill the open seats on the Commission. Mr. Wayne Flesch, who will fill one of the open seats, was present at the meeting. The Mayor has a nominee for the other opening which would bring the Commission up to full staffing. Members decided to hold off on the Age-Friendly Business Community initiative and thought perhaps the soon to be formed program committee could take the lead on contacting business owners. The senior webpage was discussed, Ms. Reese stated the page would be available and visible to the public on Thursday, 6/23. A recommendation was made to add food/grocery delivery options to the FAQ section.

A brief update was given on the iTN transportation meeting; four Commissioners are on the steering committee for this initiative. Everyone thought the iTN meeting went well and that the people involved are truly vested in starting a pilot program. There are still many questions around how to get things going and how the funding works. The next meeting is scheduled for some time in July.

There was discussion about amending the by-laws to include a provision to modify the quorum requirement if and when the Commission is understaffed. Ms. Diekemper agreed to contact the City Clerk for clarification on the policy.

The Seniors Count initiative and the role of the senior commission was raised by a meeting guest. It was discussed that until there was up-to-date information available the Commission was not in a position to make any recommendation on the initiative. Members present were in accord, however, that it was within our purview to make a recommendation to the City council to endorse Seniors Count if we so choose to do so. In any event, it was decided that we would like the Senior Services coordinator to explore a time and place for a public forum on the Initiative in fall before the November election. The Commission will again take up the matter of a recommendation to the City Council in the fall.

Follow-up Actions:

1. All members are asked to visit the webpage on or after Thursday, June 23rd
2. Ms. Diekemper will follow-up with the City Clerk regarding changing the by-laws as it relates to quorum requirements
3. Ms. Mermelstein will schedule an education session regarding “Seniors Count”

Next Meeting: Monday, July 18 at 6:00 PM. – Heman Park Community Center