



## Commission on Senior Issues

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

### Meeting Minutes – University City Commission on Senior Issues

October 17, 2016

Location: Heman Park Community Center  
Attendees Present: Margaret Diekemper, Mary Hart, Elaine Henton, Bill Thomas, Dorothy Merritt, Wayne Flesh, Sue Slater Marcia Mermelstein (Senior Coordinator), LaRette Reese (staff Liaison)  
Excused: Paulette Carr  
Guest: Roz Turner, Juanita Hopson

Ms. Margie Diekemper called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM

Roll call was done by Ms. LaRette Reese

#### Approval of Minutes

Ms. Slater moved to approve the meeting minutes from the September 19, 2016 meeting; it was seconded by Ms. Merritt. The motion passed.

#### Senior Coordinator Update

Ms. Mermelstein provided the following updates on activities, meetings and programs related to older adults.

- Feedback from guest speaking engagement to share information on senior services in U City at the Trinity Presbyterian church was well received. People were engaged and several names were added to the seniors' mailing list.
- New programs are the horizon are; Table Wisdom (older adults are matched with immigrants to help them with speaking conversational English, free movies at the library and weekly coffee talks at MacArthur's.

#### **Other business:**

Ms. Diekemper opened the discussion around the goals of the Commission and their relationship with the Senior Services Coordinator. During the brainstorming session members talked about what programs the Commission could get involved with and how they could assist the Senior Coordinator with direction, ideas and overall involvement with building and supporting programs for seniors. Seniors need help with transportation, informational workshops, some social activities and help with home repair projects.

There was also discussion around the job description and objectives of the Senior Coordinator and in which city department this position should report related to responsibilities, direction and evaluations. It was mentioned that maybe this role would fit better as part of Community Development.

#### Follow-up Actions:

1. Ms. Diekemper will consolidate the ideas collected in the brainstorming discussion and send out to everyone. These notes are included on page 2 of these meeting minutes
2. Ms. Hart agreed to draft a bullet point list of what the Commission has completed and what things we want to do next.
3. All members should be prepared to share ideas of why the Commission is needed and how we move forward.

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM. – Heman Park Community Center**

## **University City Senior Commission Meeting of October 17, 2016**

### **Brainstorming Discussion of Mission & Future of the Commission**

The following points were made in the brainstorming and discussion at our meeting and represent the *beginning* of a discussion about the ongoing mission of the Senior Commission and the role of Commission members as we move into our 4<sup>th</sup> year. Much of what we initially set out to accomplish has largely been accomplished since the hiring of the Senior Coordinator. But there remains a need to maintain some aspects of our work and move ahead to continue the creation of a more age-friendly University City. Nonetheless, some members among us feel that the Commission's direct activities are waning and that more often than not; the Commission seems to defer to the Senior Coordinator. She, in turn, is looking for more input and direct involvement of Commission members to assist her in her responsibilities and outreach. After 3 years in existence and now nearly 10 months since the hiring of the Senior Coordinator, Commission members find it entirely appropriate to re-visit the Senior Commission mission and look ahead to the future. One overarching question can help guide us as we move forward – **Does University city still need a Commission on Senior Issues?** All Commission members are expected to seriously consider this central question and come prepared to our next meeting in November to articulate our views to one another and to consider the points made in this first discussion.

- Senior Commission needs to continue to be informed and stay abreast of needs and service gaps in the senior community
- The role of the Senior Coordinator needs to be clarified vis-à-vis the Senior Commission
  - Sr. Coordinator's job description says she will assist the Commission
  - The Commission needs to work in concert with the Coordinator
  - Every Senior Commission member could be part of one of the Senior Coordinator's programs to be available to help, advise, consult with Senior Coordinator
  - Senior Commission members who are part of other organizations or senior-related initiatives (e.g. AARP, Prop S, ITN, etc.) should be representing the Senior Commission with or alongside of the Senior Coordinator.
- U. City still has unmet needs among seniors, especially needing volunteers who can help with minor household tasks, transportation, etc.
- The Commission could sponsor more educational workshops (fall prevention, other topics)
- Commission members need to be actively involved in conceptualizing and implementing programs
- Clarify the role of the Senior Commission (if any) in facilitating the supervision, monitoring, and evaluation of the Senior Coordinator role within University City employee guidelines
  - Review job description to edit, add, subtract duties
  - Try to assess whether the Senior Coordinator might be able to operate differently or better within another U. City department (e.g. Community Development)
  - Assist Senior Coordinator in developing performance objectives