



Commission on Senior Issues

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Meeting Minutes – University City Commission on Senior Issues

November 21, 2016

Location: Heman Park Community Center
Attendees Present: Margaret Diekemper, Wayne Flesch, Mary Hart, Bill Thomas, Dorothy Merritt, Marcia Mermelstein (Senior Coordinator), LaRette Reese (staff Liaison)
Excused: Elaine Henton, Sue Slater, Councilmember Carr
Guest: Andrea Riganti, Jodie Lloyd, Roz Turner

Ms. Margie Diekemper called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM

Roll call was done by Ms. LaRette Reese

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Thomas moved to approve the meeting minutes from the October 17, 2016 meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Flesch. The motion passed.

Chairperson Diekemper reviewed the agenda and made note of a change in the order of agenda items; the unfinished and new business sections will now be the first topic of discussion.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Diekemper opened the discussion around the goals, objectives and priorities of the Commission; which began at the October meeting. Ms. Merritt provided a handout with her recommendations and ideas. She believes the Commission is definitely needed. All progressive cities should have a board for the aging population. She feels perhaps more board members needed so more can be done. Mr. Flesch suggested that the Senior Commission needs to be more visible and suggested perhaps a fall prevention workshop that might be part of a partnership with Washington University. Ms. Merritt suggested that the MEAAA Senior Center in U. City could possibly be the host site for such an event if such an event was something the Senior Commission decided to host. (there was no consensus on this voiced at this meeting). Mr. Flesch also suggested activities that would give the commission more visibility such as holiday caroling. On the idea of programs in the Senior Center, he then followed up with the suggestion that Commission members might visit the Center and get their suggestions for programs. To that, Ms. Diekemper asked Ms. Hart to share again the results of the survey done by WU OT students earlier in 2016, whom they spoke to and what were some of the findings.

Ms. Hart stated that based on the March survey done at the Senior Center, participants prioritized hot meals and 1 time or single event programs. Attendance in the past has not been very good. The two common issues that keep coming up over and over are transportation and home repairs. The best way to get information to some neighborhoods is to go door to door with a magnet or handout. Ms. Hart suggested the Commission focus in on becoming an age friendly business community. The Commission could provide a seasonal checklist to seniors, and hold small focus groups on different topics.

Ms. Diekemper suggested the member think about looking forward; where do we want to be in 2-5 years from now? What services, programs and monies do want to have?

Ms. Mermelstein submitted the article for the Jan/Feb issue of ROARS.

New Business

The Director of Community Development, Andrea Riganti and the Economic Development Manager Jodie Lloyd were present to meet the Commissioners and also to share information about the Senior Coordinator (Marcia Mermelstein) moving to the Community Development department. Ms. Mermelstein will work with Ms. Lloyd to develop a work plan, they will work together to bring projects and programs to support older adults. This reporting change will provide more support and resources.

Review updated bylaws and Commissioner Terms and meeting frequency. Further discussion is delayed until the January meeting. Chairperson Deikemper is planning to resign from the chairperson position in January 2017. Members will consider who will be the next chairperson.

Other Business:

The next ITN Gateway meeting is November 30, 2016.

Ms. Merritt motioned to cancel the December meeting, Ms. Flesch seconded and the motion was passed.

Senior Coordinator Update

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

- The coffee talk sessions have provided good feedback and fellowship. About 8 people attended.
- Working on a plan to build a regular source of labor to help with home repairs. Not having much success, any ideas or suggestions are welcomed
- Senior's mailing list is up to 211 people

Public Participation

Ms. Roz Turner stated the things being discussed are the same items that she heard a year ago.

Follow-up Actions:

1. Ms. Hart agreed to draft a bullet point list of what the Commission has completed and what things we want to do next.
2. All members should be thinking next chairperson and also where we want to be in 2-5 years regarding senior services.

Council Liaison Update: NA

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 17th at 6:30 PM. – Heman Park Community Center