



## Commission on Senior Issues

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

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

April 15, 2019

Location: Heman Park Community Center  
Attendees Present: Wayne Flesch, Gloria Nickerson, Karl Reid, Kathy Straatman, Elaine Henton, Councilman Stacy Clay, Senior Services Coordinator, Marcia Mermelstein

Mr. Flesch called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.  
Roll call was done by Senior Services Coordinator, Marcia Mermelstein

#### Approval of Minutes

Ms. Nickerson moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting as written. Mr. Reid seconded, and the motion passed.

#### Unfinished Business

- **Senior Commission Member Updates -**

**Re-appointment of Mr. Flesch**– Mr. Clay confirmed that Mr. Flesch has been re-appointed to the Senior Commission for another term.

**New Member Recruitment for Commission** – There is currently one empty seat on the commission, in addition to a seat for a mayoral appointee. Ms. Mermelstein stated that she has been told that no new mayoral appointee will be added to the commission until after the study session related to this commission.

Ms. Straatmann noted that the cellphone number listed on the commission roster is not hers. Mr. Reid indicated that the 314-704-3336 number is his cellphone number. Ms. Mermelstein will make the correction and provide an updated roster at the next meeting.

- **May 5 “Connect, Create, Contribute” Program update** – Ms. Nickerson encouraged all of the members of the Senior Commission to attend the May 5 program, and to come early to help with set-up. We will be able to start setting up at 12:30. Ms. Mermelstein said that she had discussed baking cookies (instead of purchasing them from a grocery store or bakery) with members of the planning committee, who were in favor of the idea. There was discussion about whether County Health Department rules would allow us to serve food that had not been prepared in a commercial kitchen. Ms. Mermelstein said she would speak with her supervisor, Darren Dunkle, to find out if the city would approve our doing our own baking for the event.

Mr. Flesch and Mr. Reid said that they would be willing to introduce the various performers/presenters at the program. Ms. Straatmann said she would circulate in the information/refreshment area to encourage people to go over to the other side to enjoy the entertainment. Ms. Mermelstein said she would create nametags for everyone that included a logo on them, and Ms. Nickerson said that she would contribute badge holders that would clip onto people’s clothing. Mr. Clay agreed to officially welcome everyone before the first entertainers (the tap dancers.)

- **U-City Foundation** – Ms. Nickerson said that she will get information about the application process for grant money from the foundation and share it with commission members.

### **New Business**

- **April 22 Study Session with City Council** – Ms. Mermelstein announced that the study session had been canceled, and would be re-scheduled at a later date.
- **Status of Aging Ahead Senior Center Program at Heman park Community Center** – Commission members were informed that the senior center program will be temporarily stopping, and that their last meeting date will be on Thursday, April 18. Aging Ahead is trying a new pilot program, working in partnership with a couple of area YMCA's; people who have been attending the U-City program are being encouraged to attend a similar program that will be taking place at a YMCA on FeeFee Road in Maryland Heights. This pilot will take place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays through May 31. There will be evaluation of the new program, and a decision will be made as to whether the original U-City program will start back up, or will be replaced by the Maryland Heights option. Ms. Mermelstein passed out a two-page flyer from Aging Ahead explaining the pilot program that she received from Darren Dunkle.

Ms. Henton, Ms. Nickerson, Ms. Mermelstein, and Mr. Clay all indicated that they had been contacted by participants in the program who are very unhappy about this change, and about the sudden and late notice with which they were informed about the change. The City Manager, Mr. Bwayne Smotherson, and Mr. Dunkle (Director of Parks and Recreation) have all been contacted by angry participants. Ms. Mermelstein said that Mr. Dunkle would be meeting with representatives of Aging Ahead on April 22. Ms. Nickerson said that she felt some representative of the city government should talk directly with senior center participants. Mr. Clay sent an email immediately to Mr. Smotherson, asking him if someone could play that role.

**County Older Adult Commission Update** – Mr. Flesch reported that there is strong emphasis on the upcoming 2020 census, and on how important it will be for every older person to be a part of that process, and to be counted.

**Senior Coordinator's Report** – Ms. Mermelstein reported that there are currently 822 names in the database. There are 20 ITN scholarship recipients. A short spring newsletter, along with a copy of the May 5 program flyer, has recently been mailed out to everyone on the mailing list. Copies of the May 5 flyer have been taken to the library and Centennial Commons.

**Council Liaison Report** – Mr. Clay stated that the 170 & Olive redevelopment revised agreement first reading will probably be at the April 22 City Council meeting, and that the second (and final) vote would probably be on May 13. His thinking at this point is that it will probably be approved. In terms of this year's budgeting process, he is not sure if there will be community budget sessions as there have been in the past. He will let Ms. Mermelstein know, and she will share information with commission members

Mr. Flesch adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

**Next meeting will be held on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Heman Park Community Center.**