



Commission on Senior Issues

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

Meeting Minutes – University City Commission on Senior Issues

January 23, 2019

Location: Heman Park Community Center
Attendees Present: Wayne Flesch, Gloria Nickerson, Karl Reid, Marcia Mermelstein (Staff Liaison),
Councilman Stacy Clay, (Council Liaison)
Excused: Elaine Henton

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Reid moved that the minutes from the November meeting be approved, Ms. Nickerson seconded, and the motion passed.

Unfinished Business

- Clarification about quorum requirements based on by-law changes---At Mr. Flesch's request, Ms. Mermelstein explained that the current quorum (based on four commission members) is two people (HALF of the existing number of members is considered a quorum.)
- Commission officer election – Mr. Flesch stated that he would be willing to serve as the chairperson, and Ms. Nickerson has agreed to serve as a vice-chair. He suggested that they would be working more as co-chairpeople, meeting together with Ms. Mermelstein each month to set the next meeting agenda. Mr. Reid moved that Mr. Flesch serve as chairperson and Ms. Nickerson serve as vice-chairperson, and Ms. Nickerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Commission member recruitment for empty seats – Ms. Nickerson said she had spoken with someone who might be interested, and that she will encourage the person to fill out and submit an application. Mr. Clay said he would find out which council person should be the one to appoint the next member, and he will also talk with the mayor about appointing the seventh "mayoral" appointee. Ms. Nickerson pointed out that the chart commissioners currently have showing when terms begin and end is dated, including information about members who are no longer on the commission. Ms. Mermelstein said she would get updated information from the City Clerk, and have a new chart for everyone at the next meeting.
- ITN Update – Mr. Flesch stated that he and Ms. Mermelstein will be going to an ITN steering committee meeting on February 7, where they will be updated concerning numbers of riders. There still is a great need for more volunteer drivers in the east part of the county.

New Business

- May 5 "National Older Americans' Month" Program – Ms. Mermelstein said that the theme of this year's celebration is "Connect, Create, Contribute." Ms. Nickerson encouraged all of the members of the commission to participate on the program planning committee for the May program. The program will include information tables, and the suggestion of cooking demonstrations came up. Ms. Nickerson said that Operation Food Search does entertaining and informational presentations on healthy cooking. There was discussion about possibly including a fund-raising aspect to this year's program, with people knowing they could contribute to a fund that could help older residents. There was also discussion concerning the U-City Foundation, and whether a grant from them might prove

helpful for future programming or services. It was recommended that this be discussed in more detail at next month's meeting.

- Budget – Senior Services has never had a budget, other than the salary of the Senior Coordinator. Ms. Mermelstein is going to create a budget proposal that she will bring to the commission at the next meeting for their input and approval. She is hoping it can be incorporated, in some form, into the Parks and Recreation budget for 2019/20, since that is the department in which her position is being transferred. When funding for the “Make A Difference Day” program was discussed as part of the proposed budget, Ms. Nickerson said she thinks the commission should be more involved in that program next year, and asked if it a future meeting Ms. Mermelstein can give members details about what the program looks like and how it works. Ms. Nickerson moved that the Senior Commission strongly recommends to City Council that a Senior Services budget be considered this year. Mr. Reid seconded, and the motion passed. Mr. Clay said he would share that recommendation with the City Manager.

Senior Coordinator Update - Ms. Mermelstein reported that she now has 731 names on the senior mailing list. She is adding more names than usual to that database in recent weeks because of the people calling to make appointments for tax assistance at the U-City Library. She stated that a new Director of Parks and Recreation has not yet been hired, and she still does not know when her office will move to Centennial Commons or who her new supervisor will be. She had a good conversation recently with the new University City High School principal and one of his staff members, and hopes that some new intergenerational cooperative programming may come from the discussion. She passed around copies of six “Roadmap to Livability” booklets that she ordered from AARP, and Ms. Nickerson asked if commission members could receive information about how to order the booklets for themselves.

Council Liaison Report – Mr. Clay reported on the first reading concerning the I-170 redevelopment plan that took place at a recent council meeting. After feedback from community members, he feels that it is unlikely that the second reading will take place as originally scheduled on January 28. At the January 28 meeting there will be a study session that will be an update on policing in U-City. Mr. Reid asked about EMS service. Mr. Clay said we still have a contract with Gateway and there would be a penalty for getting out of the contract until 2020. City Council is looking at costs of bringing ambulance service back into the city's budget, and beginning to work those costs into the new budget.

Other Updates/Topics of Concern

Mr. Flesch asked commission members about possibly changing the meeting time of future Senior Commission meetings, maybe moving them to a morning or afternoon. Ms. Nickerson suggested discussing this at a future meeting with all current commission members are present to make the decision.

Mr. Reid moved to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Nickerson seconded. Motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 18, 2019 – Heman Park Community Center