



## Commission on Senior Issues

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

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

July 15, 2019

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: Wayne Flesch, Gloria Nickerson, Karl Reid, Kathy Straatman, Elaine Henton, Sandra Hewitt, Diane Clark, Senior Services Coordinator, Marcia Mermelstein, Councilman Stacy Clay

Mr. Flesch called the meeting to order at 6:05

Roll call was done by Senior Services Coordinator, Marcia Mermelstein

#### Approval of Minutes

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

Diane Clark, a new Senior Commission member serving as the mayoral appointee, introduced herself, and other commission members introduced themselves to her.

#### Unfinished Business

- **Asking the City Council to this year issue a proclamation stating that May is being officially recognized as Older Americans' Month in University City** – Mr. Flesch reminded Mr. Clay that the commission would appreciate his recommending that City Council proclaim May as being Older Americans' month in University City in May of 2020. It was suggested that in the future a picture of the members of the Senior Commission be featured on the May page of the city's calendar.
- **Senior Commission membership** – Mr. Flesch announced that with the addition of Diane Clark to the Senior Commission, there is now a full commission membership of seven members.
- **Senior Survey Update** – Mr. Flesch reviewed the questions asked on the spring, 2018, survey that 250-300 older residents had completed. One of the survey questions had to do with block captains, and there was discussion concerning the value of block captains. Ms. Mermelstein indicated that only a small number of respondents said they had a block captain in their neighborhood. Ms. Hewitt is a block captain in her neighborhood, and she explained what she does to help her neighbors. There has been discussion of having monthly block captain meetings, but that is not happening currently.

Ms. Straatman stated that she is involved with organizing an advocacy group within the third ward so that they feel they have a voice to discuss issues with City Council.

A suggestion that was made by a large number of the respondents had to do with the city compiling a list of reputable workmen (plumbers, lawn care workers, painters, etc.) so that the names of those people could be shared with callers asking for that type of information. Ms. Mermelstein said that she has been told she is not allowed to offer those types of referrals to private businesses, because of the city's concern about its liability in those situations. It was stated that the sewer lateral program WILL recommend companies that homeowners can work with to do that work.

Ms. Hewitt asked about the services that CAASTL provides, wondering if they will replace furnaces. Mr. Reid said he would gather information concerning that organization and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Flesch asked commission members to look over the programming suggestions that had come out of the survey. He wondered if we should be offering classes on balance and fall prevention; movie and lunch; blood pressure testing. It was decided that the first agenda item for the September meeting, where we will devote an hour, will be to focus on programming ideas for 2019/20, in order to come up with a schedule of programs that can be offered.

**Council Liaison Report** – Mr. Clay sent an email to the City Manager to ask when the Senior Commission meeting is going to be scheduled. He also sent Ms. Mermelstein a copy of an email he had sent to City Manager Rose and Councilman Smothers in July of 2018, giving them contact information for George Robnett, who works for CAASTL and directs a program that provides home weatherization for county residents. He had stated in the email that Mr. Robnett had let him know that they were “looking for folks to serve,” and he had suggested that there might be some kind of partnership between CAASTL and University City, if either Mr. Rose or Mr. Smotherson wanted to contact Mr. Robnett. He said he did not know whether there had ever been any connection made.

The developer working on the Olive & 170 project is in the process of securing financing for that project. At the next City Council meeting on August 12, there should be an update about the financing.

University City is going to be re-doing their comprehensive plan. He recommended that someone representing senior issues should be a part of those discussions, and he will make that recommendation to the Council, who will determine the individuals that will be in the group working on that plan.

**Senior Coordinator Report** – Ms. Mermelstein stated that there are currently 827 names in the city’s senior database. She said that the Tuesday/Thursday morning Senior Center program has now met three times, and over 40 people have attended each time. She thanked Ms. Henton, Mr. Flesch, and Ms. Nickerson for their assistance at the first couple of meetings. Ms. Hewitt asked if Ms. Mermelstein could use additional volunteer assistance, and she said yes. Ms. Nickerson said she would come up with a schedule, with different members of the commission coming on different days for the next few weeks, and Ms. Mermelstein expressed her thanks for the support.

Mr. Reid moved to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Henton seconded; Mr. Flesch adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

**THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN AUGUST. Next meeting will be held on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Heman Park Community Center.**