



Commission on Senior Issues

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

Meeting Minutes – University City Commission on Senior Issues

May 20, 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
Guests: Linda Jones

Mr. Flesch called the meeting to order at 6:00
Roll call was done by Senior Services Coordinator, Marcia Mermelstein

Approval of Minutes

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

Mr. Clay announced that a new member to the Senior Commission has been nominated by Councilman McMahon---her name is Sandra Hewitt.

Unfinished Business

- **May 5 “Connect, Create, Contribute” Program Evaluation** – Ms. Mermelstein stated that the program committee had met that morning to give feedback concerning the program. They believe that about 120 people attended, and that in general people seemed to enjoy the program. Recommendation for a similar program next time would be to stick to live entertainment rather than showing another movie---participants seemed to enjoy the live entertainment more. There was discussion about possibly doing the program at a different location next year---the high school was a suggestion, which would provide the opportunity for a more collaborative program that could incorporate students from the high school. Ms. Jones pointed out that the high school building is not an easy one for older people who use a walker or cane to get around in. Feedback concerning the craft projects that were offered was that people who participated seemed to enjoy, but we would have liked to see more people participating. If we offer that activity again, we need to do it at one or more round tables so that people can be seated while they’re crafting. Ms. Straatman stated that she felt the program was a successful one, and that she particularly enjoyed the ukulele performers---the program committee agreed with her. Ms. Mermelstein thanked all of the commission members for their help with the program, and expressed her deep thanks to the members of the program committee, as well.
- **Senior Center Program Update** – Discussion is continuing between Darren Dunkle, Director of Parks and Recreation, and representatives from Aging Ahead. Right now it appears that they are going to continue their current partnership with the YMCA in Maryland Heights on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. But they are interested in partnering with U-City to offer a program at the Community Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Unsure yet whether programming would be provided by Aging Ahead staff or city staff. Ms. Nickerson stated that she’s heard that about six people from the original Senior Center program have been participating at the Maryland Heights YMCA. The questions was raised concerning how Aging Ahead is measuring the success of their pilot program---unsure if it will relate to cost-effectiveness, participation, or both. Mr. Clay stated that Councilman Smotherson has suggested that a survey be sent to participants to evaluate the pilot program and to plan for future programming.

Commission members agreed that the seniors themselves should be asked what they are wanting, and there was also strong agreement that all of the participants should be informed about final decisions concerning Senior Center programming at the same time, probably through a letter.

- **Senior Services Budget** – Mr. Flesch asked Ms. Mermelstein if she has heard anything related to the budget request she submitted. Ms. Mermelstein said that the request was given to her new supervisor, and she has not heard anything yet.

New Business

- **Upcoming Senior Commission Meeting Dates** – There was discussion about possibly skipping the July meeting. At this point there is not a meeting scheduled for August or December. We will discuss the summer schedule at the next meeting.
- **Programming Ideas** – Ms. Jones suggested that the commission consider scheduling more than one program per year---maybe offering four--- one each quarter. She suggested the idea of a movie night.

County Older Adult Commission Update – Mr. Flesch talked about the Seniors Count initiative that may get back on the ballot earlier than 2020 for St. Louis County citizens to vote on. This is the small property tax increase that, if approved, would go into a fund that would be used to support services that can help older residents stay independent in their own homes. Money is currently being raised so that more publicity can be done than was done in 2016, in order to let more people know how important a “yes” vote on this fund would be.

Mr. Flesch adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on Monday, June 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Heman Park Community Center.