



## Commission on Senior Issues

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

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

September 16, 2019

Location: Heman Park Community Center  
Attendees Present: Wayne Flesch, Gloria Nickerson, Elaine Henton, Diane Clark, Marcia Mermelstein (Staff Liaison) Stacy Clay (Council Liaison)  
Excused: Karl Reid, Kathy Straatmann  
Absent: Sandra Hewitt  
Guest: Lynda Euell-Taylor, Deputy Director of Recreation

Mr. Flesch called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Roll call was done by Ms. Marcia Mermelstein

#### **Approval of Minutes**

There were no corrections to the minutes. Ms. Nickerson moved that they be approved, Ms. Henton seconded, and the motion passed.

Mr. Flesch introduced Ms. Euell-Taylor, who spoke briefly about her new role as Ms. Mermelstein's supervisor within the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department. She stated that she would probably not be able to attend every Senior Commission meeting, but that she would come as often as possible in the future.

Mr. Flesch let commission members know that he had recently had a conversation with Ms. Euell-Taylor related to some concerns the commission members had raised about Ms. Mermelstein's safety in her new office space when she is alone in the Heman Park Community Center building. He stated that he had found the conversation to be extremely helpful, and that Ms. Euell-Taylor had let him know that other staff are frequently in and out of that building throughout the week. She had also let him know that there are cameras in several locations in the building, and that she has a large screen that shows pictures of activity in all of the areas of the community center building, so that they will always be aware if there is a problem of any sort happening. Mr. Flesch felt that the issue was resolved satisfactorily.

**Unfinished Business** – There was an extended discussion about the “miscellaneous comments” that had been compiled from the over 250 senior surveys collected in the spring of 2018. As the discussion evolved, there was a suggestion that perhaps an insert can be created for an upcoming ROARS newsletter that would be done in a question/answer format---the insert could address the major issues that come up in the miscellaneous comments. For example, the subject of block captains came up several times---so a question could be, “How do I find out if there is a block captain in my neighborhood?” and the answer would have the phone number someone can call to get that information. Or if people are asking, “Are there low-cost options for older adults to get help with home repair and yardwork,” the answer would include information about Make A Difference Day, the CORP home repair referral list, etc.

Ms. Mermelstein said that she would start going through the comments to make a list of questions, and she will share them at a future meeting with commission members to get their added input.

**Council Liaison Report** – Mr. Clay reported that the Olive & 170 developer needs to secure the financing for the project, so the City Council hopes to get more information regarding the financing within the next couple of weeks.

He stated that the school district needs to make decision about school property (the school administration building) being sold as part of the new development, and that decision will be made on Thursday.

City Council had a study session last week concerning where the Police Department should have its offices. The feeling is that they can't remain in the trailers, and they should be housed in a more permanent space. There is an analysis that deals with issues of usage in the old Annex, and some on City Council think the Police Department should go back into that space; others feel there should be a whole new building. Mr. Clay wonders if we should be considering an overall "civic plaza" development that would include space for the Police Department. The Council is doing a space needs survey for all of city government in order to determine what is actually needed.

The comprehensive plan process is about to begin, and Mr. Clay wants to make sure that senior issues are addressed in those discussions. People have not yet been appointed to that planning committee, so he will keep us informed.

**Senior Coordinator Report** – Ms. Mermelstein reported that there are 830 names in the senior database. She also shared that 26 houses that will be included in the upcoming Make A Difference Day program on October 26. She reported that she has the names of two young brothers who are members at Our Lady of Lourdes who are willing to mow the lawns of older residents for \$5.00. She has been given permission to give out their names, making sure to let the older residents know that the boys are not employees of the city.

Senior Center Update – Ms. Euell-Taylor suggested that the name of the senior program be the University City Senior Lions, which the participants like very much. She is also planning on having a t-shirt designed with that name and the city logo, and the shirts will hopefully be given out to center participants around the holidays.

A talent show was held, and "The Way We Were" day took place when participants brought in pictures of themselves when they were younger. Stephanie Perry will start on October 3 doing chair yoga classes on the first and third Thursdays of the month. "Peaches and Bobby," a musical duo, will be entertaining the group in two weeks. On October 15 members of the Fire Department will be doing a presentation on fire safety, both at the community center building and at home. Ms. Mermelstein is waiting to hear back from Walgreens about scheduling flu shots. She is also working on coordinating a program with some middle school students whose staff liaison contacted her about them students coming to the center to do a joint program with our participants. November 14 is the "Village of Many Colors" program downtown, and our participants will be encouraged to attend. There is a shortage of BINGO prizes, and senior commission members were encouraged to look through their houses to see if they have any small items that they would be willing to donate as prizes.

Ms. Mermelstein sincerely thanked all of the Senior Commission members who have volunteered on a Tuesday or Thursday.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 22, at 6:00 PM. – Heman Park Community Center**