



## **Commission on Senior Issues**

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

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

**July 16, 2018**

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: Margie Diekemper, Wayne Flesch, Elaine Henton, Sue Slater, Marcia Mermelstein (Staff Liaison), Councilman Stacy Clay (Council Liaison)

Excused: Gloria Nickerson

Ms. Diekemper called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll call was done by Ms. Marcia Mermelstein

#### **Approval of Minutes**

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes from the previous meeting. Ms. Slater moved that the minutes be approved, Mr. Flesch seconded, and the motion was passed.

#### **Introductions**

Mr. Clay introduced himself as the Senior Commission's new council liaison, and all of the commission members introduced themselves to him.

#### **Unfinished Business**

- ITN – Ms. Diekemper announced that, thanks to Councilman Clay's introduction of an amendment to the city's budget, a scholarship fund has been created to assist residents in becoming clients of ITN. This fund will be given \$5500 in two installments; after the first \$2750 is distributed, there will be an need to be an evaluation of the service and the fund. In the evaluation, the city council will want to look at ward distribution, how many people at that point have used scholarship funds, and any surveys that would show data concerning client reactions to the ITN service.

It was reported that ITN has so far exceeded expectations so far in terms of number or rides given since starting service in St. Louis County on May 9. Ms. Slater pointed out that the Senior Commission was very grateful for the tremendous work and effort that Ms. Diekemper has devoted to bringing ITN's service to the county, and particularly the time she has given to getting this special scholarship fund established.

- Older Adult Survey – Ms. Mermelstein reported that Adam Brown in Community Development has let her know that the summer intern will not be able to compile the data from the surveys because his time is being used in other ways by the department. She and Ms. Diekemper will work on doing the tallying.
- County Older Adult Commission – Mr. Flesch says that there will not be a meeting of this commission in July or August. They are currently looking for additional commission members, and they are particularly looking for people with special skills who can enhance the work of their board.
- New Commission Member Recruitment – Ms. Diekemper gave a history of the Senior Commission's member make-up. Since February of 2018, the commission has had two open seats, and had actively

requesting the council liaison to recruit new members. To keep an even representational distribution, we need one new member from Ward 2 and one from Ward 3. Mr. Clay said that he would speak with his colleagues about recruitment for our commission, since after November there will be two additional openings because Ms. Diekemper and Ms. Slater will both be leaving.

### **New Business**

- Senior Commission recommendations for participant criteria in new ITN Scholarship program –

Ms. Diekemper passed out a summary sheet concerning how the \$5500 could be distributed. The recommendation was the following: 1) \$1875 for 35 memberships (30 individual memberships at \$50 and 5 couple memberships at \$75); 2) \$3500 to establish 35 accounts with \$100 put into each account. TOTAL = \$5375)

Ms. Mermelstein distributed draft versions of an application that would help determine eligibility and a recipient agreement form that would have to be signed and returned in order to have the scholarship money sent to ITN. (copies of forms will be attached to minutes when they are distributed before the next meeting.)

Discussion was held concerning how to show sensitivity in determining an applicant's income and/or financial need. The application does not ask for income, but it does ask about what other types of financial assistance the person may be receiving (Medicaid, property tax refund, etc.) It was agreed that any publicity about the scholarship fund needs to be clear that this money is for people who need financial assistance.

- Improving visibility of Senior Coordinator's role in University City – Discussion was held concerning the challenge of letting older residents know that Ms. Mermelstein is available at City Hall to address their questions and concerns. Mr. Flesch suggested that all of the city council representatives might consider meeting with Senior Commission members, to learn about what the commission does. If they all came to a Senior Commission meeting, he further suggested that older residents could be invited to attend the same meeting, in order to be able to share their concerns directly with their council representative. A suggestion was to possibly sponsor an ice cream social as a way of encouraging people to come.
- Advisory committee for East West Gateway Services – Mr. Flesch stated that he has been asked to serve on a public involvement advisory committee for East West Gateway. He asked for ideas/suggestions that any of us would like him to share with the committee. After he attends the first meeting in August, he will let us know what kind of input they are looking for.

**Council Liaison Report** – Mr. Clay reported on a council professional development retreat that had been held the prior weekend. The first half of the program was about how to be an effective city council representative; the second half was focused on the work plan that has been created by City Manager Gregory Rose. The potential return of ambulance service to be under the auspices of the city was discussed during that session.

Mr. Clay said that the TIF development is requiring a great deal of administrative/staff time at City Hall. Two public meetings in August will take place where citizens can learn more about this plan. One of those meetings will be particularly for residents of the third ward so that they can have input into how TIF funds might be used in their ward (but anyone is welcome to attend.) The second meeting, which will be a TIF Commission meeting, will be on August 23 at 6:00 at the high school.

**Staff Liaison Report** – 648 names are currently on the city’s senior mailing list. A showing of the movie, “Alive Inside,” will be a co-sponsored program with STL Village that will be held at the library on Sunday, August 26. Ms. Mermelstein is also meeting this week with a staff person from VITA Hospice about co-sponsoring a program called “The Conversation” that might be co-sponsored with and held at The Brentmoor. This program offers guidance and encouragement for families to have “the conversation” about their loved one’s end-of-life wishes and plans.

Ms. Slater moved that we adjourn and Mr. Flesch seconded. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Monday, September 17, at 6:00 PM. – Heman Park Community Center**