



Commission on Senior Issues

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Meeting Minutes – University City Commission on Senior Issues

March 19, 2018

Location: Heman Park Community Center
Attendees Present: Sue Slater, Margie Diekemper, Elaine Henton, Wayne Flesch, Gloria Nickerson, Councilwoman Paulette Carr
Excused: Senior Coordinator, Marcia Mermelstein
Guest: Rosalind Williams (sat in near end of meeting)

Ms. Margie Diekemper called the meeting to order at 6:12pm
Roll call was done by Acting Facilitator, Margie Diekemper

Ms. Diekemper explained again that the Senior Commission currently does not have a chairperson. She explained that we have been given permission for one of the commission members to conduct the meeting, and said that she would be willing to play that role. It was moved and seconded and passed to have Ms. Diekemper again facilitate this meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of February 20, 2018 were approved as written.

Election of Officers

Ms. Diekemper again asked for any nominations from the floor for Commission officers. None being heard, the meeting proceeded according to the submitted agenda prepared by Staff Liaison and Senior Coordinator, Marcia Mermelstein. (more on officers later in minutes).

Unfinished Business

- May 6 “Engage At Any Age” Program – In Ms. Mermelstein’s absence, Commission member Elaine Henton who is a member of this planning group, reported that meetings continue to be well-attended. That they are successfully recruiting for small funders for the program. She also remarked that there are still some openings for U. City seniors who would be interested in being interviewed and “featured” for the program. In spite of a prior ROARS article on this project and discussions at past meetings, there were still questions about this project from both a Commission member and our Council liaison. Ms. Diekemper clarified that this is a Senior Coordinator project and she has recruited community volunteers to assist in the planning. It is not a Senior Commission project but we are kept apprised of this activity. No further discussion in light of Ms. Mermelstein’s absence.
- ITN – Ms. Diekemper reminded again that May 9 is the official start date for the new transportation service. Fundraising and recruitment of volunteer drivers is happening, and there will be information shared in an upcoming ROARS about the new service. Also there are now 4 volunteer training sessions scheduled in April – 2 on the east side of the target area and 2 in Chesterfield on the West. One session will be held at 7:00 p.m. immediately after the April 16 Senior Commission meeting in the Heman Park Community Center and another will be on Saturday April 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the Center of Clayton. There was a brief discussion about whether or not the U. City Older Adult Survey asked about transportation and whether that data could be used in future discussions of ITN. It was verified that

there are transportation questions but it is not known at this time when the data analysis will be complete.

New Business

- Possible Senior Commission subcommittees – This item was tabled until we have a full Commission (still 2 vacant seats).

Senior Coordinator Update:

Ms. Mermelstein absent – report not available for this meeting.

Council Liaison Update:

- Ms. Carr reports that Council business is “light”.
- Mentioned that there will be a resolution regarding gun control.
- Mentioned an upcoming vote on the new Greenway ramp.
- She also shared a new senior resource that she recently learned about – Seniors Helping Seniors.
- She announced Andrea Riganti’s resignation and the appointment of an Interim Acting Director, Ms. Rosslie Williams.

Other Business

- In the context of Ms. Carr’s report, there were also questions asked by Ms. Diekemper about re-submitting funding request for ITN Ride Scholarships for U. City seniors and visually impaired adults. Ms. Diekemper passed out last year’s proposal submitted and there was a discussion about plans to move ahead with seeking inclusion in the upcoming budget. Ms. Diekemper has asked if Ms. Mermelstein can request inclusion in her budget within the Department of Community Development but that will be up to the new Director. In the event that this is not possible, Ms. Diekemper clarified the appropriate process for submitting this for council consideration and asked if Ms. Carr would carry this proposal forward. Ms. Carr said no, the appropriate process would be for the Commission to approach Mr. Rose, the city Manager. There were a few questions regarding the amount of the scholarship funding - \$5500. Ms. Nickerson (new since last years budget deliberations) asked why the amount couldn’t be less. Ms. Diekemper replied that this was already a bare bones request and that it wasn’t desirable to ask for less. If the Council sees fit to fund this, there was always possibility the full amount wouldn’t be possible. No further objections heard to submitting the proposal for \$5500. It was moved and seconded to first see if the Senior Coordinator can get this as a line item in her budget with Community Development. If that is not practical or possible, then we would follow Councilwoman Carr’s suggestion that we submit a proposal to the City Manager. Members unanimously passed this motion. Ms. Diekemper will follow this process.
- Ms. Carr also suggested that she would find it difficult to recommend this funding in light of there being no sitting chair or co-chair of this Commission. There then ensued a follow up discussion on officers. Ms. Carr further suggested that it would be difficult to even recruit more members without current officers. Under the circumstances, Ms. Diekemper nominated herself as Chair and Ms. Slater as Vice Chair for the rest of this calendar year. Both Ms. Diekemper and Ms. Slater are termed out as of December 2018. So moved and Commission voted and approved these 2 new officers.
- Again, the process of filling vacancies was discussed. Ms. Carr said that 2 sitting councilpersons, Mr. Glickert and Mr. Smotherson are the Councilpersons who can appoint respectively from the 2nd and 3rd wards (wards from which we have vacancies). Given no action within 30 days, it then becomes a Mayoral responsibility. There will be a new mayor in April so it is likely that these positions will not be appointed in the very near future.
- Mr. Flesch then brought materials from the St. Louis County Senior Commission – specifically the Age Friendly Community 2 year Implementation Report. He asked that Senior Commission members read this with an eye to figuring out how or if the U. City Senior Commission might augment or complement progress on the Age Friendly Initiative implementation. To be discussed next meeting.
- Mr. Flesch also reflected on meeting Chris Blumenhorst at the State of the City address - he has been previously involved in the Census. The Mayor had encouraged all to be counted and Mr. Flesch shared his reflections that perhaps the Senior Commission could somehow get involved in this effort. And

perhaps that Mr. Blumenhorst might come before the Senior Commission at some time in the future and discuss more.

There being no further business, it was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 16, 2018 at 6:00 PM. – Heman Park Community Center

Reminder: ITNGateway volunteer training will be help immediately after this meeting at 7:00 pm