



## Commission on Senior Issues

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

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

October 15, 2018

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: Margie Diekemper, Wayne Flesch, Sue Slater, Gloria Nickerson, Karl Reid, Marcia Mermelstein (Staff Liaison), Councilman Stacy Clay (Council Liaison)

Excused: Elaine Henton

Ms. Diekemper called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Roll call was done by Ms. Marcia Mermelstein

### Approval of Minutes

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

### Unfinished Business

- New Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, as well as additional new Commission members needed – Ms. Diekemper reminded everyone that the November meeting will be her last as the Chairperson because her term as a Commission member will be expiring. It will also be the last meeting for Ms. Slater, who has been serving as the Vice-Chairperson. Other Commission members are asked to consider volunteering at the next meeting to serve as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Flesch asked what the responsibilities of the Chairperson are, and Ms. Diekemper listed the following: setting the agenda with Senior Services Coordinator; convening and facilitating meetings; serving as the "point person" to City Council. The staff person makes room reservations, sends out meeting notice and agenda, and is responsible for minutes.

Mr. Flesch said that he and Ms. Nickerson have spoken about the two open positions, and they will continue their conversation before the next meeting. Ms. Diekemper reminded members that there will be no Commission meeting in December; in January, any Commission member can run that meeting in order to facilitate a discussion about a vote on new officers.

- ITN update – The service is continuing to get new riders, with a majority from University City. Ms. Mermelstein stated that 13 scholarships have been awarded, 1 application is on file but has not been awarded yet, and 1 application had been sent out in that day's mail. Mr. Clay asked if Ms. Mermelstein could get him data about which wards the current recipients are from, and she said she would send him that information.

### New Business

- Senior Commission Fundraising – Since there is still no official program budget for the Senior Coordinator, Ms. Diekemper raised the question of whether the Senior Commission should be lobbying City Council in order for there to be specific funds included for that position in the next fiscal year's budget. She also raised the question of whether the Senior Commission should be raising its own funds in order to provide various services for the city's older residents. She stated that the

Commission needs to start having these budget discussions right now because the City Council starts planning for the next year's budget in February or March.

She also reminded Commission members that another source of funding for programs or services we might want to offer is the University City Community Foundation, from which we can apply for a grant.

- Rides for voters in the upcoming election – Ms. Mermelstein asked if anyone knew of organizations that provide rides to the polls. She had learned of an organization that uses volunteer drivers, the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, at 314-562-0411. She also said that Lyft is offering reduced-fare rides, and Uber is offering free rides. Ms. Slater said that various Temples and Synagogues are offering free rides.

Mr. Reid passed around a copy of the ballot, letting everyone know that it is an unusually long ballot that will probably take older people a longer time than usual to read through all of it.

### **Council Liaison Update**

Mr. Clay stated that there would be a TIF-related meeting on October 16 for Third Ward residents, so that they can share their ideas about how funds generated from the re-development project can be spent to improve their ward.

### **Staff Liaison Report**

Ms. Mermelstein reported that there are currently 687 names in the Senior Database. There are currently 38 houses that are scheduled to receive home repair and/or yard assistance at the upcoming Make A Difference Day program on October 27.

### **Other Updates**

- St. Louis County Older Adult Commission update - Mr. Flesch reported that the Commission is working on setting up a county-wide meeting of representatives from all municipalities, perhaps inviting one government representative and one senior commission member from each city, in order to share ideas. The hope is to possibly have this meeting sometime this spring. He also announced that the Older Adult Commission is pursuing getting the "Seniors Count" Proposition S on a ballot again in 2020. That proposition was passed by city residents in 2016, but was not passed in either St. Charles or St. Louis County.

Ms. Diekemper asked Mr. Flesch how to bring an issue that affects seniors county-wide to the attention of the County Older Adult Commission. Her information had to do with an organization that does outreach Medicare counseling to people for whom English is a second language. They currently only serve individuals in the city, but she has been told that the only reason they don't offer this service in the county is that no one has asked them to. She would like to have this idea presented to the county's commission, and Mr. Flesch said that by bringing that kind of information to his attention, he would be able to get it on an upcoming agenda for that group.

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