



## Commission on Senior Issues

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

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

September 17, 2018

Location: Heman Park Community Center

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

Excused: Sue Slater

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

Roll call was done by Ms. Marcia Mermelstein

#### Approval of Minutes

Ms. Mermelstein noted that she needed to change Ms. Nickerson from “Absent” to “Excused” and said she had already made that correction for the minutes distributed at the meeting. Mr. Flesch moved that the minutes be approved with that correction, Ms. Slater seconded, and the motion was passed.

#### Introductions

Mr. Reid introduced himself as the Senior Commission’s newest member, and all of the commission members introduced themselves to him.

#### New Business

- Presentation about Odd Couples Housing - Ms. Diekemper introduced Mr. John Levis, Director, of Odd who spoke to the Commission about this new not-for-profit organization that matches younger renters with older homeowners willing to rent a room in their home.

Mr. Levis spoke about the fact that many older people may not be ready to move out of their houses or need assisted living, but that they do need some help in order to live independently at home. Because graduate students are looking for housing that is nicer than they can afford to pay for, Odd Couples Housing matches them with older adults who need assistance, and the student pays lower rent in exchange for doing tasks for the resident.

They have created an algorithm that compares data collected electronically about the renter and the homeowner, in order to make good matches. They also partner with a company that does background checks, with an arrangement for special pricing.

They have three matches so far, and are currently recruiting students at Wash. U, Maryville, and UMSL. Student reaction has been very enthusiastic, and they are looking for older people in University City because of their proximity to Wash. U. Brian Carpenter, a professor at Wash. U is using an NIH grant to study older people living with younger ones, vs. older people living on their own.

#### Unfinished Business

- New member recruitment – There are currently three open seats on the Senior Commission. Ms. Diekemper pointed out that Ms. Slater is a mayoral appointee, and she asked Mr. Clay if he would bring her leaving the commission soon to the attention of Mayor Crow, so that he can appoint someone to replace her.

People interested in serving on the Senior Commission need to contact LaRette to get an application, and the applicant needs to be sure to say which commission they are interested in.

This commission's by-laws don't require that it have two commission members from each ward. Mr. Clay will find out which city council representative should be approached about expediting getting new members.

- Medicare Open Enrollment Event – Ms. Diekemper passed around a flyer promoting an upcoming Open Enrollment Event that will take place at the U City Library on October 17, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. – noon at the library. CLAIM counselors will be available at the event to answer questions
- ITN Update – Ms. Diekemper has fielded 40+ calls from people wanting information about ITN, but only five of those callers have so far become official ITN clients. She is in the process of making follow-up calls to those callers who have not yet joined in order to let them know about University City's scholarship fund. U City currently has 15 registered riders, which is more than any other municipality.

Ms. Diekemper and Ms. Mermelstein will be doing outreach to Senior Center participants to let them know about ITN's service and about the scholarship.

Ms. Nickerson thanked Ms. Diekemper for all of the hard work she has put into getting ITN's service started in St. Louis County, and particularly for the work and time she has put into her presentations at City Council Meetings.

### **Staff Liaison Report**

Ms. Mermelstein reported that there are currently 673 names in the Senior Database. She has 40 applications for the upcoming Make A Difference Day, and indicated that she is going to talk with the representatives from the groups that provide home assistance about possibly changing the format of the program. Instead of having homeowners fill out an application whenever they need assistance, she is going to discuss whether we should select a certain number of homeowners that would be matched with each organization, and they could receive assistance multiple times in one year.

She reported that 30 people attended the showing of "Alive Inside," the movie about music's impact on people with Alzheimers that was shown at the library program in August that was co-sponsored with STL Village. She invited any commission members who were interested to stay after the meeting was adjourned to watch a few minutes of this excellent documentary. She also reported that 10 people (2 residents of University City in addition to the others who lived at the Brentmoor) attended the recent "Conversation Project" program that was offered at the Brentmoor, and co-sponsored with Jewish Family & Children's Service and Vitas Healthcare.

Five scholarship forms so far have been submitted for the ITN scholarship, and Ms. Mermelstein will be mailing out letters to those recipients soon to let them know they will be receiving this financial assistance.

She mentioned her continuing interest in scheduling some kind of "meet your City Council Representative" program for older adults, and Mr. Clay said that he would speak with her about planning this type of event.

### **Council Liaison Update**

Mr. Clay said that the Olive & 170 development project has been a big issue for the city in the last month. The TIF Commission approved public financing for the project, and now city attorneys are working with developers on a redevelopment agreement.

There will be a meeting for U City residents (particularly those who live in the third ward) about the elements they want to see written into this agreement---i.e., construction goals for minority businesses, etc.

City Council has not yet voted to accept the TIF Commission's recommendation; they will vote some time this fall.

Mr. Reid moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Nickerson seconded, and the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 19, at 6:00 PM. – Heman Park Community Center**