



Commission on Senior Issues

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

Meeting Minutes – University City Commission on Senior Issues

April 17, 2017

Location: Heman Park Community Center
Attendees Present: Mary Hart, Elaine Henton, Margie Diekemper, Sue Slater, Wayne Flesch, Marcia Mermelstein (Staff Liaison), Councilwoman Paulette Carr, Council Liaison
Excused: Dorothy Merritt, Bill Thomas
Guest: Adam Brown, summer intern with Community Development Department

Ms. Mary Hart called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Roll call was done by Ms. Marcia Mermelstein

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes. Mr. Flesch suggested in the future that when meeting minutes are sent out to commission members, copies of any handouts referred to in the minutes should be sent to commission members who had been unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Slater moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Diekemper seconded. The motion passed.

Unfinished Business

- Future Directions---Discussion continued concerning using the county's "Age-Friendly Community" guidelines as the commission's goals. Ms. Hart pointed out that some of the age-friendly goals have already been accomplished in University City. Concern was expressed about this being a five-year process; by that time, no current commission members would still be on the commission. The question raised was whether we would have to commit to the exact same five-year process the county did, or could we take their toolkits and start immediately. Ms. Slater suggested that Lori Fiegel come to a future commission meeting to address some of these questions, since Ms. Fiegel is coordinating the "Age-Friendly Community" project for St. Louis County. Ms. Hart said she would make that invitation.

Ms. Hart asked if the commission wants to react to issues as they come up as a way of determining goals and future direction, or if they wanted to use the age-friendly guidelines as our plan. When asked for a show of hands, three commission members said they would like a solid guiding plan/vision. When asked how many would prefer to move forward dealing with issues as they present themselves, no hands were raised. There were three abstentions.

Mr. Flesch asked what is meant by older adults, and was told that our ordinance says people who are 50+. He asked about disabled people younger than 50, and was told that is not the Senior Commission's current role.

- ITN/Gateway Report

Ms. Hart said there had been a meeting held since the last commission meeting to discuss possible uses of city funds to support ITN; in attendance at that meeting were Ms. Hart, Ms. Diekemper, the Interim City Manager, the Mayor, and the Director of Finance. The discussion concerned the original amount of \$17,500 that had

been set aside for the Senior Commission, \$10,000 of which was earmarked specifically for senior transportation. The conclusion of that discussion was that those funds had not been included in the city's budget since 2013, and that they no longer are available. Ms. Hart and Ms. Diekemper were told that they could make a special budget request to the City Manager, and a memorandum written by the two of them was sent to Mr. Adams, Interim City Manager, asking for \$2000 to be paid by the city to ITN/Gateway as a one-time donation amount to help support this start-up effort in St. Louis County.

Discussion took place concerning sending a second, more formal, additional budget request for both the \$2000 donation and some additional money to be used as an ITN scholarship fund for University City residents. Ms. Carr suggested that this request should include information about what other municipalities are contributing (and their rationale), background on ITN's history, their commitment to stay in this region, their other sources of funding, etc. Ms. Diekemper expressed some confusion, because she felt that the memorandum that had been sent had already served as a formal means of requesting this funding. Ms. Hart asked if Ms. Diekemper would work with her to re-write the request. Ms. Diekemper then moved that \$2000 be requested as a start-up donation and that \$5500 be requested for a scholarship fund. Mr. Flesch seconded the motion, and it passed. Ms. Carr then suggested that the commission should plan on including a budget request each year that includes the amount we want available for scholarship.

Several members needed to leave the meeting early, and with their absence there was no longer a quorum, so the official end time of the meeting was 7:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 15, at 6:00 PM. – Heman Park Community Center