



Commission on Senior Issues

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

Meeting Minutes – University City Commission on Senior Issues

February 21, 2017

Location: Heman Park Community Center
Attendees Present: Mary Hart, Sue Slater, Margie Diekemper, Dorothy Merritt, Wayne Flesch, Marcia Mermelstein (Senior Coordinator), LaRette Reese (staff Liaison)
Excused: Bill Thomas, Councilwoman Paulette Carr
Absent: Elaine Henton
Guest: Marian Sharpe, Jodie Lloyd

Ms. Mary Hart called the meeting to order at 6:12

Roll call was done by Ms. Marcia Mermelstein

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Flesch moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 21, 2016; it was seconded by Ms. Slater. The motion passed.

Unfinished Business

- Senior Commission Liaison - Chairperson Hart explained that there is a change concerning the staff liaison to the Senior Commission, and that as of this meeting, the new liaison will be Marcia Mermelstein. This decision was reached at a recent meeting where LaRette Reese, Marcia, and Jodie Lloyd (Marcia's supervisor) decided that it makes sense for Marcia to now play that role. Ms. Hart thanked Ms. Reese for all that she has done to assist and support the Senior Commission, and Ms. Diekemper presented Ms. Reese an "Above and Beyond" award.
- Commissioner Training – Ms. Hart asked Jodie Lloyd to explain what is included in the Senior Commission binder. Ms. Lloyd also explained that our commission will operate with the same processes as other boards and commissions in the Community Development Department. She asked commission members to contact Ms. Mermelstein to set up an appointment for an orientation meeting, and indicated that commission members could come individually or several people together for those meetings. Mr. Flesch and Ms. Slater set up a meeting for 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 23. Ms. Mermelstein said that she will let the rest of the commission members know that they can make their own appointments at a different time.
- Seniors Count – Mr. Flesch had looked into whether or not Proposition S is going to come up again on a future ballot. He reported that Lori Fiegel from St. Louis County says they're trying to keep the same planning group together, and that they are very interested in putting Proposition S on the ballot again. He also mentioned that he is a member of the St. Louis County Older Adult Commission, which will be using the AARP Age-Friendly Community "Action Toolkit."
- Senior Commission "Accomplishments" hand-out – Chairperson Hart mentioned that Councilwoman Carr has read this information and was impressed by the commission's accomplishments. All City Council members have also received a copy.

New Business

- **Future Directions for Commission**

Chairperson Hart said that she would like to talk in depth next month about what direction the commission should focus on. She suggested that we might want to consider using the AARP “Age-Friendly Community Guidelines” as our roadmap. There is a 5-year commitment from communities who choose to follow the AARP established process. Ms. Hart said that she will email county Age-Friendly Community documents to commission members so that they can be reviewed before next month’s meeting. Commission members were encouraged to send emails to either Ms. Hart or Ms. Mermelstein if they have additional ideas concerning future directions.

Chairperson Hart explained that Ms. Mermelstein and the commission will all be working together, with the commission making recommendations and offering advice.

Discussion was held about whether we should focus on identified needs (poorer residents living north of Olive) or try to develop new programs for residents who don’t seem to have specific needs or who don’t identify themselves as “older adults. There was some consensus that we should focus on known gaps in service.

Mr. Flesch brought up the idea of scheduling a “Fall Prevention” program, possibly using a Wash. U. staff person as facilitator. Ms. Mermelstein said that she knows OASIS does a yearly fall prevention program, and that she would contact someone there to clarify whether our scheduling a similar program would be considered a conflict. During the discussion, it was suggested that firefighters can refer people to resources when they go to houses to help pick them up if they have fallen. If we schedule a program, we can give firefighters a flyer to hand to people to encourage them to attend. Mr. Flesch, Ms. Mermelstein, and Chairperson Hart said they would talk further about developing this program.

Other Business:

Ms. Diekemper gave an update concerning ITN---Clayton and Brentwood announced at the last steering committee meeting that they would be going to their city councils to ask for financial contributions similar to the one that U-City decided on at our last meeting. There still is the need to recruit drivers and do fundraising, and this will be discussed at the steering committee taking place tomorrow. She said that they hope to finalize promotional materials, and then we will need to use guidelines they have about how to do outreach into the community.

Senior Coordinator Update:

Ms. Mermelstein provided the following updates on activities, meetings, and programs related to older adults:

- The senior mailing list is up to around 325 names.
- She is continuing to get frequent phone calls about making appointments for tax assistance at the U-City Library. Most of those callers are U-City residents, enabling her to add many new names to the database.
- About a dozen people are participating in the “Computer Comfort” class offered by Washington University.
- She has had a large response to the newsletter she sent out recently, and has already received a number of applications for the April “Make A Difference Day” program.

Council Liaison Update: NA

Public Participation

Ms. Marian Sharpe said that she wanted the commission members to know how much she appreciates their efforts.

Closing Comments – Chairperson Hart presented a bouquet and card to Ms. Reese, thanking her on behalf of the entire commission for her years of assistance. She then presented a bouquet and card to Ms. Slater, who will be getting treatment for cancer in the near future, wishing her well on behalf of all of us. Everyone was then invited to eat some *hamantashen* (Purim cookies) that Ms. Mermelstein had brought.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM

Next Meeting: Monday, March 20, 2017 at 6:00 PM. – Heman Park Community Center