



## Commission on Senior Issues

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

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

July 17, 2017

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: Mary Hart, Margie Diekemper, Wayne Flesch, Elaine Henton, Marcia Mermelstein (Staff Liaison), Councilwoman Paulette Carr (Council Liaison), Andrea Riganti (Director of Community Development)

Excused: Dorothy Merritt, Bill Thomas, Sue Slater

Ms. Mary Hart called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Roll call was done by Ms. Marcia Mermelstein

#### Approval of Minutes

It was pointed out that Andrea Riganti's name needed to be added to the list of "Attendees Present:" It was also pointed out that there was no reference at the end of the minutes to the motion for adjournment, so that information also needs to be added. Ms. Mermelstein was asked to send corrected minutes from both the month of May and June; in the future, she will send corrected minutes with the next month's meeting reminder notice. Ms. Slater moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Thomas seconded, and the motion passed.

#### Unfinished Business

- State of Senior Services Coordinator Position – Ms. Hart announced that the position was approved to stay in the new fiscal year budget, and that it would hopefully remain permanently. She thanked Commission members, Ms. Riganti, as well as all other community members and City Council representatives who advocated on behalf of the position.
- ITN – Ms. Diekemper reported that the 2000 start-up contribution and scholarship fund that had been requested from City Council had not been approved. ITN is continuing fundraising, and getting this service up and running has not happened as quickly as originally anticipated. Several other municipalities are in the process of exploring making contributions for start-up costs.

She attended several of the budget study sessions, and feels that there was some misinformation shared at those meetings. She would like to see correct information shared at a future time in order to clear the record. To that purpose, she has created a document that includes those corrections. She stated that she would like to see some version of her clarifications become part of the public record. Ms. Slater suggested that a presentation of these corrections by a member of the Senior Commission be set up as a study session that would be part of an upcoming City Council meeting. Ms. Riganti recommended that a study session concerning ITN (along with information about other existing senior transportation services) should take place prior to the next budget process; she said that she will make that request to the City Clerk to have the session scheduled.

#### New Business

- Older Adult Survey – Ms. Riganti explained that the survey will be developed over the next couple of months. Data collected through the survey process will be compiled, results will be studied, and that data will drive upcoming recommendations made to City Council regarding seniors' needs. The methodology of the survey will involve "walk and talks" with volunteers going directly to people's

homes, as well as on-the-spot surveys done at churches, synagogues, barber shops, etc. Ms. Diekemper suggested that we would not want to do too much interviewing at senior residential facilities because it would “skew” the results, since those residents already receive a variety of helpful services by having chosen to live in that type of facility. Discussion was held on the importance of creating a well-crafted survey document. Mr. Flesch suggested that Senior Commission members should be involved as interviewers. He also pointed out that it will be important to find out through the survey process about issues that are specific to individual neighborhoods (i.e., broken sidewalks, speeding cars, etc.)

**Council Liaison Report** – Ms. Carr reported that the vote to pass the new fiscal year budget was unanimous, and that city revenues are down. Efforts are well under way in the search for a new City Manager---a comprehensive brochure has been developed and a professional search is taking place. She shared the fact that \$10,000 has been set aside to hire a consultant to help the city find funding sources to deal with water problems as part of a storm water master plan. A task force is being created; their task for the next couple of years will be to do a study and then do a master plan on how to deal with the problem. This group should start meeting in early fall. Ms. Carr mentioned that the next Senior Commission meeting is scheduled the day of the solar eclipse, and discussion was held about whether we should re-schedule in August. Ms. Riganti pointed out that it might be difficult to find an evening when the Community Center would have a room available for our meeting. Mr. Flesch moved to cancel the August meeting, with Ms. Mermelstein sending an email update to commission members instead. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion, and it was passed, with the next meeting to take place on September 18.

**Senior Coordinator Update** - Ms. Mermelstein reported that she has close to 500 names on the city’s senior mailing list. She stated that students and teachers in the computer tutoring class are all enthusiastic, and that she will be doing an evaluation meeting with them at the final session in August. She hopes to continue the program. Ten houses will be helped at the upcoming volunteer work day on August 12, and she has another 25 applications that hopefully can all be helped at the large October 28 Make a Difference Day program.

Ms. Slater moved that we adjourn and Mr. Thomas seconded. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Monday, September 18, at 6:00 PM. – Heman Park Community Center**