



## Commission on Senior Issues

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

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

May 15, 2017

Location: Heman Park Community Center  
Attendees Present: Mary Hart, Elaine Henton, Margie Diekemper, Wayne Flesch, Bill Thomas, Marcia Mermelstein (Staff Liaison), Councilwoman Paulette Carr, (Council Liaison)  
Excused: Dorothy Merritt, Sue Slater  
Guests: Adam Brown, summer intern with Community Development Department  
Lori Fiegel, St. Louis County Director of Office of Strategy and Innovation  
Jodie Lloyd, Economic Development Director

Ms. Mary Hart called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Roll call was done by Ms. Marcia Mermelstein

#### Approval of Minutes

It was noted that the phrase “Council Liaison” be added after Ms. Paulette Carr’s name. Mr. Thomas moved to approve the minutes as corrected, and Mr. Flesch seconded. The motion passed.

#### Unfinished Business

- Future Directions---Ms. Hart introduced Ms. Fiegel, who gave an overview concerning the St. Louis County’s “AARP Age-Friendly Community” initiative. She stated that we were the 17<sup>th</sup> community in the country to be accepted into this program, and now there are over 200 communities in the age-friendly network. They are now getting into their second year of implementation. She stated that the four main areas of focus concerning older adult needs that were discovered through their research were transportation, housing, social engagement, and health & well-being. Discussion took place concerning funding for the age-friendly effort, and Ms. Fiegel stated that the county is looking into creating a full-time Age-Friendly Coordinator professional position. A question was asked by Ms. Carr about whether St. Louis County has any financial commitment to ITN. She said no, but that they were instrumental in convening the transportation forum hosted at UMSL two years ago where an ITN representative presented information about this program; she also said that the county committed staff time for a person to serve on the ITN steering committee in order to provide data that helped determine the recommended service area for the program when it starts. She also said that the age-friendly initiative will be addressing the issue of transportation next year, in their second year of their implementation phase.

Discussion continued concerning using the county’s “Age-Friendly Community” guidelines as the commission’s goals, with the choice seeming to be to either adopt those guidelines formally for University City, or to look through them to see which goals/actions might fit our community best.

- Jodie Lloyd - Ms. Lloyd spoke to the following issue: if Commission members want to speak at a council meeting, they can always state their views as an individual citizen. If they want to speak as a representative of the Commission, the Commission members need to have previously voted on whether they want one of their members to represent them officially and speak on their behalf at an upcoming public meeting.

She also reported on the upcoming volunteer work day to be held on June 10, stating that 13 houses would be helped by volunteers from Christ the King, Lourdes, and SHED.

- ITN Report – Ms. Mermelstein reported that two informational meetings would be held in May 17 at HPCC in the morning, and on May 24 in the evening at the library.

### **New Business**

- Recruitment for new commission members – Ms. Hart pointed out that she, Dorothy Merrit, and Bill Thomas will all be rotating off of the commission in November of 2017. Mr. Flesch can be re-appointed for a second term in November, if he desires. Ms. Hart pointed out that everyone needs to be thinking about recruiting new members, and that there is no age requirement in order to be on the Senior Commission. Commission members were encouraged to be actively recruiting, and to think about skills that new members might have that could make them an asset to the commission, i.e., members of the clergy, social workers, professionals in the field of gerontology, people with marketing skills, etc. They were also reminded that we want to encourage diversity, and work hard on getting equal representation by ward on the commission.

Interested citizens need to fill out an application (copies were handed out to members present), and then they are appointed by a City Councilman/woman. Ms. Hart said she would like to go to an upcoming council meeting to let council members know we're looking for new members, and to raise awareness so that they'll be looking, too. Mr. Flesch moved that a representative from the commission go to a council meeting to let them know we're looking for new members, Mr. Thomas seconded, and the motion passed. Ms. Hart said she would like to go to the next City Council meeting on June 12, and she encouraged as many commission members as possible to go, also. Ms. Carr said she will ask if Ms. Hart can get on the agenda under "council business;" otherwise, Ms. Hart said she could speak during "citizen comments." The time to get to the meeting is 6:30 p.m.

**Senior Coordinator Update** - Ms. Mermelstein reported that she now has 450 names on the senior mailing list. She said she has had a good response from potential computer tutors, would be starting the interview process to select about six teachers, and would be reserving the auditorium at the U City Library for the classes that will hopefully start by the end of June.

**Council Liaison Report** - Ms. Carr said that the City Manager search process should take the next 4-5 months. The council will be voting on the new budget by the end of June, and the proposed budget can be found on the city's website under "budgets." She reported that at future council meetings, content-based speeches will not be cut off. A long discussion then followed concerning comments that were made by a member of the Senior Commission at the May council meeting. In the course of that conversation, Ms. Carr stated that she was making every effort to fulfill her responsibilities as the commission's liaison, but that she would be willing to step down from that position if the Senior Commission wanted her to. That subject will be revisited at a future date.

Mr. Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17, the motion was seconded by Mr. Flesch, and it passed.

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