



## Commission on Senior Issues

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

November 20, 2017

Location: Heman Park Community Center  
Attendees Present: Mary Hart, Margie Diekemper, Wayne Flesch, Elaine Henton, Sue Slater, Marcia Mermelstein (Staff Liaison),  
Excused: Councilwoman Paulette Carr

Ms. Mary Hart called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.  
Roll call was done by Ms. Marcia Mermelstein

Ms. Hart announced that Dorothy Merritt would no longer be serving as a member of the Senior Commission. She stated that she had had a phone conversation with Ms. Merritt, and that Marcia had followed up with a note of thanks on behalf of the commission. Senior Commission Minutes will be sent to Ms. Merritt to continue to keep her informed, and she was encouraged to apply to serve on the commission again in the future if/when her health improves.

#### Approval of Minutes

Ms. Diekemper suggested Bill Curtis' name can be taken out of the October meeting meetings and be replaced with "Ms. Diekemper's neighbor." Mr. Flesch moved to approve the September minutes as amended, Ms. Slater seconded the motion, and the motion was passed. Ms. Diekemper moved to approve the October minutes as amended, Mr. Flesch seconded, and the motion was passed.

#### Unfinished Business

- Response to ITN inaccuracies - Ms. Diekemper moved that her amended document be given to Community Director Andrea Riganta so that it can be entered into public record and distributed to City Council on behalf of the Senior Commission. Ms. Slater seconded the motion, and it passed.

#### New Business

- University City Community Foundation – Ms. Diekemper suggested that it might be a good thing if a group of citizens could request "seed money" for ITN from the new foundation, and then the Senior Commission can make a formal budget request to establish an ITN scholarship fund.
- Special Program for U-City senior residents – Ms. Mermelstein announced that she and Adam Brown are working on a program scheduled for Sunday, May 6, that will highlight the city's older residents, as part of National Older Americans Month. They have reserved the library's auditorium on that Sunday afternoon, and program components will include any/all of the following: photographs of selected older residents taken and essays written about those residents by high school students from the journalism class at University City High School; a video presentation done by UMSL graduate students that will be a compilation of interviews done by them with selected U-City older residents; a showing of the "Cyber Seniors" documentary about a teen/senior computer tutoring program; helpful handouts, including a copy of the summary of the survey results and a U-City business community coupon/discount booklet; refreshments. The program does not have a name yet. Ms. Mermelstein

said that they are hoping to create a program committee to help work out the details, and Ms. Henton volunteered to serve on the committee.

- Report on the St. Louis County Older Adult Commission – Mr. Flesch serves as a member of this commission, and he shared the following information:

The county's commission has 12 members; 7 are representatives of council districts, 2 at-large members, 2 members are from social service agencies, and 1 represents older adults with disabilities. Ms. Susan Schafers is the staff person. This commission was created in conjunction with the Age-Friendly Communities guidelines. They were involved in promoting the Seniors Count initiative; Mr. Flesch stated that it does not seem likely that this initiative will be back on a ballot any time soon. They are currently looking at developing a pen-pal program, after having received a letter from an older woman asking them to do something for lonely seniors. Individuals from various St. Louis County departments have come to meetings to talk about the work done in their departments, especially as it related to the age-friendly plan.

- Centennial Commons "Go Red For Women" program – Friday, February 2, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Ms. Hart announced that this successful program will take place once again at Centennial Commons, focused on heart disease prevention for women. The program will feature information tables, a guest speaker, and a luncheon. Ms. Mermelstein will sit at a table to distribute information about University City senior service, possibly including copies of the older adult survey form.

**Senior Coordinator Report** – Ms. Mermelstein shared some thank you notes from citizens regarding their assistance at the recent Make A Difference Day---39 homes were helped. Adam Brown is scheduling a meeting soon to discuss next steps with all the representatives who helped recruit volunteers so that we can try to provide a more ongoing, comprehensive service for home maintenance assistance. She said that she now has 532 names on the University City mailing list. Adam Brown and his practicum student did a "trial run," interviewing a few residents the weekend of November 11. They were at the AARP meeting last Friday morning, and they got about 7 completed surveys and a number of other people took them home to fill them out and mail back. By the next commission meeting in January, all of the "pilot" surveying will be complete. Mr. Brown asked that commission members contact him if they would like to be interviewed or be an interviewer.

**Council Liaison Report** – Ms. Carr was not present, but Ms. Hart said that she had attended a recent MSD meeting concerning storage tanks for waste water. MSD says they're starting over from scratch in order to find a workable solution, and they were presented with four or five options about where the storage tanks might go. It looks like they may end up south of Olive, underground. Information about this meeting is online, and there are links in the Mayor's newsletter with all of the current information. Ms. Hart also announced that a new City Manager has been hired---Mr. Gregory Rose, who is the former Assistant City Manager of University City.

### **Other Updates/Topics of Concern**

- Dates for 2018 Senior Commission Meetings – Ms. Mermelstein reminded everyone that neither the January or February meetings can take place on the usual third Monday of the month, due to the Martin Luther King holiday in January and the Presidents' Day holiday in February. She has scheduled those meetings for Tuesdays (January 16 and February 20.) It was pointed out that this change will create a conflict for Councilmember Carr because that is when Park Commission meetings take place. Ms. Slater also indicated that she has a conflict on Tuesday evenings, and she asked if the meetings might be moved to Wednesdays. Ms. Mermelstein said that she thought that Tuesdays had been the only option, but that she would check with Linda Euell-Taylor and get back to commission members tomorrow to let them know whether a change was possible.
- Ms. Diekemper announced that open enrollment is now taking place for Medicare.

- Ms. Hart reminded everyone that she is at the end of her term as a member of the Senior Commission, and that this would be her final time to conduct a meeting as chairperson. She asked if any of the other commission members were interested in serving as Chairperson, and no one volunteered. Ms. Mermelstein stated that she had been told by her supervisor that she should conduct the meetings in the future, until a new chairperson is selected. On behalf of the Senior Commission, flowers and a card of thanks were presented to Ms. Hart.
- Ms. Hart reminded everyone that there will be no meeting in December.

Ms. Slater moved that the meeting be adjourned and Ms. Nickerson seconded. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:28.

**Next meeting: TUESDAY, January 16, at 6:00 p.m. – Heman Park Community Center**