



## Commission on Senior Issues

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

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

September 18, 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, Sue Slater, Bill Thomas

Guests: Rosalind Turner

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 by Ms. Diekemper that a statement referring to a document she had discussed at the last meeting said, "copies of the document were passed out to commission members." This was incorrect--no copies were distributed. Ms. Mermelstein will make that correction to the minutes from the July meeting, and the corrected minutes will be sent with the next meeting's e-mail notice. Ms. Diekemper moved to approve the minutes as corrected, and Ms. Henton seconded. The motion passed.

### Unfinished Business

#### New Business

- Senior Survey – Ms. Mermelstein distributed copies of a rough draft of survey questions that had been compiled by Adam Brown so that commission members could offer their feedback. There was a question about Mr. Brown's stated emphasis on interviewing primarily lower income residents--the feeling was that there should be a broader sampling, perhaps with a bit more focus on those who have more financial need. They definitely recommended outreach to all neighborhoods. Another issue was about how to ask residents for their income--they felt that people should not be asked so directly what their income was, but instead should be offered different ranges of income (i.e., 0 – \$20,000 per year; \$20,000 - \$50,000 per year, etc.) where a box could be checked off to record the response.

Ms. Carr asked how we would be targeting homes of older adults, and she suggested that we look into registered voters' lists, because each voter's birthdate is included with that information. She said that a survey plan could be mapped out that would highlight homes of older residents, and that she thinks the cost would be \$25.00. She said she would be glad to assist with this effort.

After looking over the information about how surveys will be administered (through the neighborhood "walk and talks," by posting the survey on the senior web page of the city's website; by interviewing people outside of grocery stores, barber shops, etc.; and by setting dates at churches and synagogues for an interview sessions following a service or congregational program. It was suggested by the commission that paper copies of the survey also be placed at the library in the senior resource kiosk.

- Commission member term limits – A lengthy discussion took place while commission members looked at a chart compiled by LaRette Reese, current City Clerk. There is some clarity needed concerning the term end dates of Ms. Hart and Ms. Henton. For future clarification, the commission may need to amend its by-laws. Ms. Carr stated that she would speak with Ms. Reese to gain a better understanding of the information shared, and that she would report back to the group at the next meeting.
- Frequency of commission meetings – Ms. Hart suggested that the commission consider changing its current monthly meeting schedule to one that would be an every-other-month schedule, with Ms. Mermelstein sending an email “update report” to commission members in the months that there is no meeting. There was discussion of pros and cons of adopting this schedule---some felt it was an appropriate change to make, others felt there would be too big a time gap between meetings. Ms. Diekemper suggested that since three commission members were absent, the topic should be brought back up again at the October meeting, when a larger number were present to make this important decision.
- Senior Coordinator Report – Ms. Mermelstein reported that ITN is still in the process of fund-raising, and Ms. Diekemper added that a free office space in Chesterfield has been confirmed. There are now 505 names on the Senior Database mailing list. A newsletter was recently sent out by mail and by email to everyone on the list---it included information about an AARP Driver Safety Class being offered in September at Centennial Commons and a workshop on avoiding financial scamming being offered at the Brentmoor in October. There are currently 30 applications for the upcoming October 28 Make A Difference Day program, and we will probably be able to add a few more, depending upon adding additional volunteers.
- Council Liaison Report – Ms. Carr stated that the City Council is actively engaged in the hiring process of a new City Manager, with nothing else specific to report. She stated that on Wednesday, September 19, there will be a study session with representatives from MSD. After the meeting, three city council representatives will be facilitating a town hall meeting so that residents can respond to the information shared by MSD. The Nathaniel Hawthorne School building’s rezoning has been approved by City Council so that the building will be turned into market-rate apartments, with some new construction.
- Other Updates/Topics of Concern
- Public/Citizen Participation – Ms. Rosalind Turner, 1021 N. McKnight Road, thanked commission members for their kindness toward Ms. Dorothy Merritt, who is continuing to recuperate and hopes to return to the commission in the future. Ms. Turner shared information about the upcoming National Voter Registration Day, which will take place on Tuesday, September 26 in the University City Library, High School, and McNair Administration Building. A great deal of outreach is being done in the community to let residents know about the voter registration effort, and commission members are encouraged to participate by sharing this information with others. Ms. Turner also indicated that the AARP Associate Director of Advocacy, Mr. Jay Hardenbrook, would like to speak to the Senior Commission at a future date, and that she will be speaking with Ms. Hart to schedule a date for this to take place.

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

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