



CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON SENIOR ISSUES
CENTENNIAL COMMONS RECREATION FACILITY, 7210 OLIVE BLVD.
Monday, April 17, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Members Present:

Gretchen Barry, Allieze Ruby Curry, Suzanne Greenwald, Teresa Huether, Mary Dee Schmidt

Also in attendance: Council Liaison Aleta Klein, Staff Liaison Linda Euell-Taylor,

Guests: Chairperson University City Planning Commission Peggy Holly, Senior Planner Mary Kennedy, STL Village Board Member Edmund Acosta

Excused: Christopher Lhotak

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Teresa Huether

Introductions: All individuals present introduced themselves. Mary Dee Schmidt was introduced as a new member of the Commission on Senior Services, Edmund Acosta, former library board member is a guest of Aleta Klein, Peggy Holly & Mary Kennedy are representing the U. City Planning Commission's comprehensive plan.

Minutes: Ms. Greenwald moved to approve the March 20, 2023, minutes. Ms. Curry seconded. Minutes approved by acclamation.

Citizen Comments: None

Presentation: Mary Kennedy presented a draft overview of the city's comprehensive plan for the next 10-20 years. This plan is scheduled for approval in October of 2023. She is requesting input from the Commission on Senior Issues. Peggy asked what are the critical needs for seniors? How do we strengthen livability for seniors?

The commission members identified the following priorities:

- Hire a full-time senior services coordinator. Create a job description for this position.
- Healthy food options within walking distance – add multiple locations for farmer's markets, especially in the "community stabilization" areas where there are no grocery stores, only fried food.
- More subsidized housing for seniors.
- Provide support for seniors to age in their own homes.
- Identify a list of vetted, reliable residential contractors.
- Reevaluate ambulance fees.
- Resume services previously provided by Aging Ahead: meals on wheels, transportation, Programming.
- Informational guides for seniors.
- Coordinate volunteers to visit seniors who don't have anyone checking in on them.

Staff Liaison Report: Ms. Euell-Taylor gave an update on the status of recreation facilities.

Council Liaison Report: Ms. Klein announced that the library is scheduled to reopen in 3-4 months. The Ruth Park Trail has also reopened; mentioned the Storm Water Commission report with flash flooding being the main issue in University City. Also, the retention pond has been approved.

New Business: None

Old Business: Tabled.

Other Updates / Topics of Concern: Ms. Greenwald followed up with U. City High School regarding students volunteering to assist seniors in the community. She provided a contact number for Linda Pritchard 314-290-4212 who is willing to discuss opportunities whenever we are ready. Ms. Huether will obtain a copy of the job description for senior services coordinator in Florissant, MO.

Public / Citizen Participation: None

Closing Comments: None

Adjournment: Ms. Huether motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Barry seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.