



CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON SENIOR ISSUES
CENTENNIAL COMMONS RECREATION FACILITY, 7210 OLIVE BLVD.
Monday, May 15, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Members Present:

Gretchen Barry, Allieze Ruby Curry, Teresa Huether, Christopher Lhotak, Mary Dee Schmidt

Also in Attendance: Council Liaison Aleta Klein, Staff Liaison Lynda Euell-Taylor

Guests: Director for St. Louis County Older Residents Program (CORP): Susan Schafers
CORP Volunteer Coordinator: Laura Conners
Roberta Stewart – visiting potential commission member.
Diane Davenport – visitor

Excused: Suzanne Greenwald

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Teresa Huether

Introductions: Guests were introduced by Ms. Huether

Minutes: Ms. Schmidt moved to approve the April 17, 2023, minutes. Ms. Curry seconded. Minutes approved by acclamation.

CORP Presentation by Susan Schafers and Laura Conners: Ms. Conners distributed three flyers/brochures highlighting the services provided by the County Older Resident Program. These services are available to St. Louis County residents aged 60 and older. These services are funded through the General Revenue Fund of St. Louis County (taxpayer supported). The primary service is volunteer drivers transporting adults to and from medical appointments. Home visits, telephone reassurance, home care/repair referrals and tax preparation services are also offered. Many volunteers were lost during the pandemic. CORP is actively seeking new volunteers. There are various grants also available for some services. The tax prep service does have income guidelines. They would like very much to resume the legal aid program which has been recently eliminated. Volunteer attorneys were available to assist with beneficiary deeds which helped elderly citizen avoid probate on their homes. Both Ms. Conners and Ms. Schafers took questions from the Commission.

The suspended “Golden Lions” program and Meals on Wheels were also discussed. The Meals on Wheels program was still providing meals to the Golden Lions participants in their homes until December of 2022. The COVID funding for meals ended at that time.

Council Liaison report: Ms. Klein gave brief update on the 3rd Ward revitalization project. Yard & Company has been hired to survey the residents to determine which services are needed. Fifty percent of the residents in the 3rd Ward are senior citizens. Reassessment of the renovations for the

police station has been approved. The recently approved Olivette retention basin will mitigate future flooding in University City. MSD has begun cleaning debris from the River Des Pere.

Staff Liaison Report: Ms. Euell-Taylor reported there are no updates regarding the start of the 2023 Heman Park Swimming Pool season. The Recreation Division in collaboration with the Parks 100 Committee is planning a scavenger hunt for youth ages 5-12 celebrating July is Parks and Recreation month. Scavenger Hunt winners will be awarded their prizes at the University City Summer Band July 18th concert.

New Business: None

Old Business: Ms. Huether provided a handout that included information gathered since the April meeting of the commission. The job description for the Senior Citizen Coordinator for the City of Florissant has been obtained. Peggy Holly provided statistical information about seniors in University City. Madeline Franklin, Executive Director for STL Village would be willing to collaborate with University City again. Ruby Curry attended the Ferguson Senior Expo & visited their Aging Ahead Senior Center. Lisa Knoll, CEO of Aging Ahead will investigate options for University City seniors' transportation to the Ferguson Aging Ahead site. Mary Goodman, from ROARS can print an article focusing on seniors in the Fall edition provided the article is submitted by the end of July 2023. Ms. Huether assigned "homework" to Commission members: each member was asked to contact six municipalities to inquire about any senior services they may offer. She also asked members to review the draft of a possible article for the Fall ROARS publication.

Other Updates / Topics of Concern: None

Public/Citizen Participation: None

Closing Comments: Ms. Curry suggested we should have a booth at the University City Saturday Market to inform people about services for seniors.

Adjournment: Ms. Huether motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Barry seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.