



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

**Members Present:**

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

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

**Guests:** Peggy Holly, Chair of Planning Commission

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

**Introductions:** Peggy Holly was introduced by Ms. Huether.

**Minutes:** Mr. Lhotak moved to approve the May 15, 2023, minutes. Ms. Schmidt seconded. Minutes approved by acclamation.

**Draft of University City Comprehensive Action Plan:** Ms. Holly reviewed demographics and the entire 15-year plan. Two main focuses are the River Des Peres and racial disparities. The goal is to make University City more resilient, livable, and prosperous. Improve public transportation, pedestrian, and bicyclist safety. Create mixed-use communities, allow accessory dwellings, increase home ownership. The zoning codes, including the definition of “a family unit” require updating. There are 300 homes in flood planes that need to be removed according to the Army Corp of Engineers. See meeting handout for more details.

Ms. Holly took questions about implementing the plan. She clarified that implementation is a separate plan. One in four University City residents is over 65 years old. Ten percent of seniors live below the poverty line. One goal is by 2040 no one in University City will need to buy flood insurance.

Commission members were encouraged to attend one of the upcoming events and complete a survey on the draft plan recommendations.

**Council Liaison report:** Ms. Klein gave brief update on the recent storm clean-up. Nothing was destroyed this time. Clean-up should take three weeks, beginning in the third ward. Residents should place debris at the street for pick up by the city. She also updated the commission on the 2022 flood. There is still debris blocking the River Des Peres tunnel. MSD is claiming they are not responsible for this clean-up.

**Staff Liaison Report:** Ms. Euell-Taylor reported that the outdoor pool is now open. Plans are under way for the 100-year celebration, watch for the signs. The Senior Services Information pamphlet will be updated and inserted into a future Roars publication. The conversion of tennis courts to pickle ball was discussed. Currently there are pickle ball courts at Kaufman and Flynn Park.

**New Business:** The commissioners report on senior programming offered by area municipalities was reviewed. Some notable findings are: The Florissant senior coordinator reports to the mayor instead of the Parks & Rec Department. Maplewood has a social worker who conducts home visits & is engaged with assisting homeless residents.

**Old Business:** Ms. Huether, Ms. Greenwald, Ms. Schmidt, and Mr. Lhotak volunteered to draft a job description for a part-time senior coordinator. Ms. Klein will provide a copy of the job description for the previous coordinator. The Senior Commission will recommend reinstating the position to the City Manager. The City Council will need to review the proposal by November 2023 for inclusion in the budget for January 2024.

**Other Updates / Topics of Concern:** None

**Public/Citizen Participation:** None

**Closing Comments:** None

**Adjournment:** Ms. Huether motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Barry seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.