



**CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON SENIOR ISSUES
CENTENNIAL COMMONS RECREATION FACILITY, 7210 OLIVE BLVD.
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 – 6:00 PM**

Members Present: Gretchen Barry, Allieze Ruby Curry, Teresa Huether, Mary Dee Schmidt

Members Excused: Christopher Lhotak, Suzanne Greenwald

Also in Attendance: Staff Liaison Lynda Euell-Taylor

Guests: Juliet Simone, Mary Saputo, Mimi Taylor-Hendrix

The meeting was called to order at 6:12pm by Ms. Huether.

Introductions: Ms. Huether introduced Juliet Simone Chief Program Officer of Oasis, Mary Saputo Outreach Coordinator for Oasis and Mimi Taylor-Hendrix from the SHED, Inc. Board of Directors.

Minutes: Ms. Huether moved to approve the July 17, 2023, minutes. Ms. Schmidt seconded.

Presentations:

Oasis: Ms. Simone gave an overview of the history of Oasis which was founded in St. Louis during the early 1980's for senior citizens. The goal is to provide intellectual stimulus and social engagement, both critical for mental health. She described the various classes and programs provided by Oasis. The classes are fee-based, and the organization is funded by several grants. A course catalogue is available on-line. Printed copies were distributed at the meeting. She spoke highly of their tutor training program which trains seniors as reading tutors for elementary school children.

Ms. Huether will invite Ms. Simone to speak and the library speaker's series for seniors.

SHED: Ms. Taylor-Hendrix explained that SHED was founded in 2009 by churches volunteering to help seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans with home repairs. SHED incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2014 with the mission of building stable foundations for accessible and inclusive communities. Twice yearly, on a Saturday in April and October, volunteers provide exterior home repairs to qualified homeowners. Typically, three or four volunteers work three or four hours on two things the homeowner needs. Often these are properties that have been cited by inspectors for code violations. SHED also has two houses under construction in the 3rd ward that will be available for

purchase by low/moderate income buyers. They provide career opportunities for U City students and sponsored a speaker series for high school construction and engineering classes. SHED began a 3-year strategic planning process in 2020 and hired an executive director expanding services in several areas. Ms. Taylor-Hendrix provided a handout at the meeting which outlined all of the work this organization has completed & pending projects.

Staff Liaison Report: Deferred

Council Liaison Report: Deferred

New Business: Deferred

Old Business: Ms. Euell-Taylor mentioned that Mary Goodman is the U. City communications person who can add content to the website.

Other Updates / Topics of Concern: Deferred

Public / Citizen Participation (comments limited to 3 minutes): None

Closing Comments: None

Adjournment: 7:30pm