



## Commission on Senior Issues

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 862-6767

### Meeting Minutes – University City Commission on Senior Issues November 17, 2014

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: Abbie Carter, Evelyn Hollowell, Margaret Diekemper, Mary Hart, Eleanor Mullin, William Thomas, Arthur Sharpe, Jr. (Council Liaison) and LaRette Reese (staff Liaison).

Excused: Sue Slater

Guests: Liwei Ding, Private Home Care

Ms. Margie Diekemper called the meeting to order at 6:07p.m.

#### Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Abbie Carter moved to approve the meeting minutes from the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Bill Thomas. The motion passed.

Ms. Eleanor Mullin moved to approve the meeting minutes from the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Bill Thomas. The motion passed.

Mary Hart reported that one phone message was received on the Senior Commission voicemail line, it was a wrong number. No email messages have been received to date.

#### Unfinished Business

- Members discussed what a senior webpage might look like and what kinds of things should be included. Mrs. Carter suggested that we involve Linda Wills in this discussion. She might be able to share information on what and how information is shared with the senior group that meets at Centennial Commons. Most believe senior centers in other communities are the main source of information.
- Councilman Sharpe advised that the City has a bid out to hire a webmaster. This person would be able to help with getting the senior webpage up and running. The commission should work on ideas of what they want the page look like before the webmasters comes on board.
- Members listed several things to be included on the webpage; mission statement, contact information, events at the various senior facilities in U. City. Links to services in other communities should also be included. As well as information on OATS, Call-A-Ride, senior classes, library and health services, meals on wheels and so on. **Members agreed to bring links that they know about and/or use to the next meeting. Mary Hart will facilitate consolidating the information.**

#### New Business

- Members decided that there should be an article placed in each ROARS newsletter. The City has already approved this re-occurring space.

- Members talked about members to visit other senior community groups and bringing ideas and suggestion back to this team. Members agreed that better idea would be to extend invitations to representatives of other commissions to come and share information at our meetings. This will ensure that all members receive the same information and have the opportunity to ask questions.
- Members discussed rather to keep or cancel the December meeting due to holiday schedules. Mr. Thomas motioned to have the December meeting as scheduled. Mrs. Carter seconded. The motion was passed.
- There was suggestion to get local businesses to be more senior friendly. Might be a good idea to work with the Chamber of Commerce to help facilitate this idea. Perhaps businesses could offer senior discounts or have staff trained and available to assist with the special needs of seniors like dementia and trouble reading small print etc. Maybe create a small card or a letter for the business owners to introduce this idea and get their feedback. **Members will research to see if and how other cities handle their senior friendly business model. This topic should be added to January agenda.**
- Mrs. Diekemper informed members that Medicare's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday is next year. She asked if members thought this Commission should be a part of the celebration. Members thought it was a good idea. Mr. Thomas motioned to have Mrs. Diekemper represent the group and Mrs. Hart seconded. The motion passed.
- Medicare claims training will be offered in the spring.
- The possibility of the City hiring a part-time staff person dedicated to senior issues was discussed. Maybe we could partner with another community to keep the cost down. **Councilman Sharpe will look into this idea.**

#### Guest Comments:

Mr. Liwei Ding of Private Home Care (PHC) introduced himself and shared a high level description of what his company does. Their goal is to allow people to age while staying in their own home. They offer 24 hour care for aging adults. They are located at 6901 Delmar and have been in business here for four months. They accept many insurance plans.

#### Actions / Follow-Up Items:

- **Ms. Hollowell** will invite Linda Willis to join the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting
- **All** to bring links to senior services to the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Mary Hart** will facilitate organizing the information and discussion.
- **Mary Hart** will draft a summary of the October focus session conducted by Lori Fiegel of St. Louis County to be included in our next ROARS submission.
- **All** to gather information and ideas for what a senior-friendly business model would offer to the residents.
- Dedicated Senior Resource part-time staff position **(Councilman Arthur Sharpe Jr.)**

**Next Meeting: Monday December 15 at 6:00 PM. – Heman Park Community Center**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05p.m.