



## Commission on Senior Issues

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

### Meeting Minutes – University City Commission on Senior Issues December 15, 2014

Location: Heman Park Community Center

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

Excused: Sue Slater, William Thomas, Eleanor Mullin

Guests: Linda Willis (MEAAA Senior Group), residents: Patsy Hodges, Betty Meeks, Ruby Lacy and Adrienne Gray

Ms. Margie Diekemper called the meeting to order at 6:16p.m. – The start of the meeting was delayed as there was not a quorum present at the beginning due to the auto accident involving two commission members.

Roll call was done by Ms. LaRette Reese

#### Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Abbie Carter moved to approve the meeting minutes from the November 17th meeting; it was seconded by Ms. Mary Hart. The motion passed.

Council Update: Councilman Sharpe stated the city is working on ideas for use of the land on Olive between Hanley and Midland. He reminded everyone of the public budget meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> and that would be a good time to request a part-time staff person to support the senior population.

Ms. Diekemper requested the guest attendees to introduce themselves.

Ms. Hart reported that there three incoming calls to the Senior Commission voicemail line. There was one new email of a resident inquiring about when meetings are held. Margie handled that with an information only reply.

#### Unfinished Business

- Members discussed what a senior webpage might look like and what kinds of information should be included. Ms. Carter suggested that we involve Linda Wills in this discussion based her on involvement with the senior group at Centennial Commons. She might be able to share insight on what and how information is shared with that group of seniors. 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.
- Ms. Hart facilitated a discussion on what kinds of things we would like to see on the webpage. A few ideas listed were; 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 forth. Due to a late start and in the interest of time, this process was not completed. Members agreed to bring links to other sites that they know about and/or use to the next meeting. Ms. Hart will facilitate a second discussion around this topic.

- Ms. Hart shared the draft ROARS article. Feedback was given and Ms. Hart will edit and update for the next meeting. The commission will review at the next meeting.
- 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. This topic should be added to January agenda.
- 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 recommended a commission member present this idea to the City at the January budget meeting.

#### New Business

#### Guest Comments:

Ms. Linda Willis from the MEAAA shared information on what services are offered through The Mid-East Area Agency on Aging program offered at Centennial Commons. They partner with Meals on Wheel, Operation Food Search and others to provide services to seniors in University City. There is no fee to participate, but you must be at sixty years of age and complete the registration. They meet Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For information please call (314) 721-2722 or email [ucity@mid-eastaaa.org](mailto:ucity@mid-eastaaa.org).

#### Actions / Follow-Up Items:

- **Everyone** will bring links to senior services to the January meeting. **Mary Hart** will facilitate discussion.
- **Mary Hart** will provide an updated draft of the ROARS article.
- **Everyone** will gather information and ideas for what a senior-friendly business model would offer to the residents.
- **Margie Diekemper** will attend the upcoming budget meeting and request a part-time staff person.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. – Heman Park Community Center**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:22p.m.