

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes - January 21, 2021 - 9:00am

Via Zoom Meeting

Attendance:

Commission Members Present: Carolyn Durbin, Lois Schultz, Cathleen Williams, LaVonne Kroells, Kay Hampshire, Tom Simmons, Alan Krueger (City Council)

Advisors Present: Anne Marie Stolp (Oak Grove), Bonita Heilman (Harbor/Haven)

Community Representatives: Corp. Jordan Voigt, Dawn Plummer (CCPH)

Staff Present: Karen Hallquist (Economic Development Director)

Others Present: Carol Lagergren, Mayor

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Kroells called the meeting to order at 9:01am

2. Oath of Office - Renewal of Commissioners LaVonne Kroells & JR Hoernemann

Kroells read the Oath of Office. Hoernemann not present.

3. Appointment of Officers

Motion: TS/LS to appoint LaVonne Kroells as Chair, Carolyn Durbin as Vice Chair, and City Staff as Secretary.

Motion passed 6-0.

4. Adopt agenda

Motion: CD/CW to adopt the agenda with the additions of 8c: His House and 8d: Pharmacy. Motion passed 6-0.

5. Approve minutes from December 17, 2020

Motion: CD/CW to approve minutes from December 17, 2020 with the following corrections:

- *Peace Villa report - "Williams" misspelled*
- *Oak Grove report - The food shelf delivers the leftover food to Peace Villa and Oak Grove each week, not Mackenthun's. Motion passed 6-0.*

6. New Business

a. Review new agenda format

Lagergren shared that all commissions are reformatting their agendas to keep commission goals front and center. The suggested three action phrases can create additional conversation and make the goals more achievable:

- Monitor and expand housing options for seniors -
 - Updates from senior facilities keeps the conversation fluid about the potential need for more senior housing
 - Allows conversations about "aging in place" and ADUs.
- Provide safe options for seniors to get around -
 - Creates discussion on the need for monitoring bus capacity, trip locations days/times, etc.
- Identify and promote education and social options for seniors -
 - Encourages discussion on how to reach all seniors in the NYA Community
 - Create a "senior only" insert in the City newsletter
 - Create a "senior only" survey to ask about basic needs (food, cleaning, shoveling, mowing), transportation, education (Lunch & Learns, etc.)

b. Open Meeting Law Review

All commissions have been presented with information on the Open Meeting Law. This requires that any meeting of governmental bodies be open to the public. Lagergren shared that any discussion of official city business with a quorum of commissioners (regardless of in-person, email or telephone) outside of the formal meeting is a violation of the Open Meeting Law. This law is important as the public has a right to be informed - for notice of the meeting, relevant materials for the meeting and to be present at the meeting. Lagergren also shared that local officials cannot accept a gift from any interested person.

c. Bidding and Quote Process for Minnesota Municipalities

All commissions have been presented with information on the Bidding and Quote Process for MN Municipalities. Lagergren shared the reasoning of this process is because public money is being used for public projects, city

taxpayers should receive the lowest obtainable price from a responsible contractor, and the process provides a level playing field to all contractors bidding the project.

7. Senior Residence Updates

a. Harbor / Haven

Heilman reported the following:

- The Harbor has 4 open apartments, 34 residents, 11 turnovers
- The Haven has 5 open apartments, 24 residents, 8 turnovers
- Memory care has 8 open apartments, 4 residents, 13 turnovers
- Residents and staff being tested weekly and have all been negative in the last two weeks
- Will be going back to communal dining
- Doing Zoom communion with St. John's Church
- Moderna vaccines coming the week of January 26th

b. Peace Villa

Heilman reported the following:

- Full occupancy with 6 turnovers in the last 2 months – typically a 6-9 month waiting list

c. Oak Grove

Stolp reported the following:

- One bedroom/den apartment and a one-bedroom apartment are available
- Fitness room is open again
- Humanity Alliance meals for residents to sign up are coming from Eden Prairie – some residents like the meals and some do not
- A vaccine truck will be coming from Ridgeview in the coming weeks

8. Senior Services/Project Updates

a. NYA Senior Center – still closed

b. City Bus

Hallquist shared the city bus is available for residents to use. They must call City Hall to schedule at this time.

Heilman reported the Harbor/Haven residents are looking forward to their trips again.

c. His House

His House is a non-profit organization run by Martha Brandon. They give food service assistance to homeless individuals who are re-establishing residency. Kroells shared that this organization could also help to bring food to those in our community who do not have transportation or financial means. The big question is how to get ahold of those people. Brandon presented a local hardship case to Kroells and was seeking assistance from Senior Advisory. After much discussion it was decided to suggest contacting Carver County Social Services.

d. Pharmacy

Schultz shared that the November 2020 StarTribune reported that 30% of small local pharmacies are closing. She contacted Representatives Nash and Emmers to voice her concern. Kroells shared that questions asking about prescription needs and asking if local seniors are utilizing their local pharmacy should be included in the senior survey.

9. Community Updates

a. Carver County Public Health

Plummer shared that the State of MN determines the quantities of vaccines throughout the state. Last distribution Carver Co received was for 600 doses. At this point, Walgreen's and CVS are contracted through the state to administer vaccines at skilled nursing facilities. Stolp will get numbers of residents at Oak Grove who are interested in getting the vaccine to Plummer. Plummer explained that healthcare facilities were first in line for the vaccine, skilled nursing facilities next and then the counties are allocated a certain amount. Half of vaccines are not given out as they are needed for the second dose. Schultz asked about communication of vaccine information to those seniors who do not have technology. Plummer will check on this.

Plummer also shared about a "Senior Buddies Program." This is for residents of Carver County over the age of 65 who are living at home. The program is to aid in assisting resources and mental health/wellness checks. Once the program is approved the information could go in the City newsletter. The intentions are to have Carver County staff the program.

b. NYA City Council

Hallquist reported about the Free Food Distribution at city hall on Wed, February 3, 2021 starting at 1pm. Kroells also welcomed new council member Alan Krueger to the commission.

c. Carver County Sheriff's Department – Triad

Corp. Jordan Voigt had to leave the meeting early. He will be introduced and give his report at the February meeting.

10. Adjournment

Motion: TS/LS to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.

Next Senior Advisory Meeting – Thursday, February 18, 2021 @ 9:00am via Zoom Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Hallquist, Economic Development Marketing Director