

# SENIOR ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes – March 18, 2021 – 9:00am

Via Zoom Meeting

## Attendance:

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

Advisors Present: Brenda Schmitz (Peace Villa)

Community Representatives: Dawn Plummer (CCPH)

Staff Present: Karen Hallquist (Economic Development Director)

Others Present:

### 1. Call meeting to order

Durbin called the meeting to order at 9am.

### 2. Adopt agenda

Motion: TS/LS to approve agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

### 3. Approve minutes from February 18, 2021

Motion: CW/TS to approve minutes. Motion passed 6-0.

### 4. Updates

#### *Monitor and expand housing options for seniors -*

##### 4.1 Senior Residence Updates

###### a. Harbor / Haven

Schmitz shared the Harbor has 4 openings, Haven has 8 openings and memory care has 7 openings. They are doing communal dining and activities and allowing 45 minutes for scheduled visitors.

###### b. Peace Villa

Schmitz reported that PV is 100% occupied. The waiting list is not too long, however, she is giving lots of tours. Weekly worship services are back again. Schmitz and Simmons shared that PV is proceeding with \$629,000 of building improvements including sprinkler system, new elevators, softeners and fire safety measures. They are using \$129,000 of reserves and received a \$500,000 0% loan for 20 years.

###### c. Oak Grove

Stolp reported via email that she has one studio apartment open at this time. CCPH set up a vaccine clinic for residents in their community room and will be giving out the second dose next week. About 50% of residents are vaccinated.

#### *Provide safe options for seniors to get around -*

##### 4.2 City Bus

Hallquist shared the city is looking for more bus drivers and working on scheduling outings.

#### *Identify and promote education and social options for seniors -*

##### 4.3 NYA Senior Center - None

##### 4.4 Carver County Public Health

Plummer shared that vaccine clinics are going well and the county continues to try to reduce barriers to get the word out about vaccines.

##### 4.5 Carver County Sheriff's Department - none

##### 4.6 Senior Buddy Program

The program is mentioned in the survey and will gauge interest from those results.

##### 4.7 Community Gardens

Hallquist shared that Central Schools has partnered with the City to build eight new garden plots.

### 5. New Business

#### 5.1 2019 Senior Survey

The 2019 Senior Survey was conducted by Carver County – it concentrated on housing, transportation, and quality of life questions. Results from the new survey will be compared to this one in order to see changes and senior needs.

#### 6. NYA City Council Update

Krueger reported that city staff is looking for bids on the trail lighting, reviewing the Oak Lane and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave/Lift Station project for Summer of 2021, and thanked those who helped with the food distribution.

Other updates:

- Schultz shared that she has been talking to representatives at the following offices about the preferred pharmacy situation. The main concern is that seniors should be able to go anywhere for their prescriptions:
  1. Medicare/Quality Improvement
    - a. Really listened to Schultz' concerns
  2. Insurance Commissioner of MN
  3. Board of Pharmacy
  4. Minn. Commerce Co.
  5. Keith Ellison's office
  6. Joe Meyer
    - a. Was going to follow up with Silver Script about preferred vs. non-preferred pharmacy
    - b. Suggested to call State of MN to express concerns
  7. John Marty
    - a. Very concerned – also predicts no independent pharmacy in 10 years because of the Big Box stores such as Walgreen's and CVS

Simmons commented about Canada taking away business from small pharmacy. Durbin shared that a prescription she can get from Canada is \$65 is \$300 here. Simmons and all those present commended Schultz for her diligence in talking with the multiple representatives. Schultz encouraged others to do the same.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion: TS/LS to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0.

Next Senior Advisory Meeting – Thursday, April 15, 2021 @ 9:00

Respectfully Submitted,

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Karen Hallquist, Economic Development Marketing Director