

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes – May 20, 2021 – 9:00am

NYA City Hall Council Chambers

Attendance:

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

Advisors Present: Brenda Schmitz (Peace Villa)

Community Representatives: Deputy Jordan Voigt

Staff Present: Karen Hallquist (Economic Development Director)

Others Present: Bill Hart, Mary Spille, Elroy Latzig

1. Call meeting to order

Kroells called the meeting to order at 9am.

2. Adopt agenda

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

3. Approve minutes from February 18, 2021

Motion: CD/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 there are 23 filled and 5 open apartments at the Harbor. There are 5 open at the Haven and 3 in the memory care. Interest in facilities has picked up now after COVID and anticipated to be filled this fall. The salon is open and no masks are required if vaccinated. They are looking for employees.

b. Peace Villa

Schmitz reported they have 100% occupancy. They are working with the architect for the upcoming improvement project – will be out for two years for completion. Adding an elevator, sprinkler system, security and additional community space.

c. Oak Grove

Stolp reported via email that she has one studio apartment open at this time. All common areas are now open and will be having an “opening party” sometime soon. Hampshire shared that the beauty shop has now been converted into a craft room.

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. Schmitz will ask Heilman to forward the old outing schedule to City Clerk Brumbaugh. Hallquist said they are working on a schedule for the bus stopping at all senior facilities on Thursday nights for Music in the Park. Kroells shared that the bus will be used during Stiftungsfest for the History Center tour of local cemeteries.

Identify and promote education and social options for seniors –

4.3 NYA Senior Center – Kroells shared that the Senior Center will open again in September

4.4 Carver County Public Health - None

4.5 Carver County Sheriff's Department – Deputy Voigt shared that Carver County is working on a medicine take back event. Currently, anyone can drop off old meds at the Waconia City Hall office. Voigt warned that people should not be “pre-cooling” their cars without someone being there – opportunity for purses or personal belongings to be stolen. He also warned that no one should be giving personal information to strangers over the phone. He will get in touch with Carver County to get materials on scams to present at a Lunch & Learn. Voigt also reminded everyone to look twice before crossing Hwy 212 for semi's not stopping.

5. New Business

5.1 2019 Senior Survey

Hallquist shared the results of the survey. The following results were highlighted:

- Over 50% of those who did the survey were residents of over 20 years
- About half of those who did the survey lived in single family homes
- About 26% were veterans
- Over 90% have their own means of transportation
- Over 76% knew there is a City Bus, however, 77% did not know how to schedule a ride – this can be addressed in the next newsletter
- About half of those who did the survey would use the bus for outings or grocery runs
- About 82% have had the COVID vaccine
- Over 95% did not use or need the food shelf services
- The wellness services mentioned would be household repairs, lawn mowing and pharmacy delivery. Voigt will check to see if the Rent-A-Wrestler program is still in existence. Other groups that could be contacted for assistance would be the boy scouts, youth groups or NHS. Hallquist will put in an updated senior resource list in the next newsletter.
- There was not a good response for the Senior Buddy Program – this can be taken off the agenda going forward.
- Over 77% have a computer.
- The City Newsletter was the most utilized means of communication for City and County events and happenings. Next was conversation, newspaper and email. Spille volunteered the West Carver Lions to assist City staff with stuffing the monthly newsletter!
- Over 50% would be interested in Lunch & Learns.
- Educational session interests included: exercise & recreation, security & scams and aging in place.

5.2 SHIP Funds – Hallquist will check with Diane at Carver County to see what sort of projects SHIP has assisted with – there could be potential to help with items for Senior Center.

6. NYA City Council Update

Krueger reported the following:

- The City is having repairs done on 45 monuments at Mau Cemetery
- Shanahan Construction is doing the restoration of the Historic Bandshell for Legion Park
- Modern Design Cabinetry is buying the former grocery store building. The City had a market study done to work on feasibility of another grocery store coming to town.
- A new fire truck was purchased to replace the one that was in an accident this last winter
- Hwy 212 trail lighting will be installed soon
- May 25th will be Strategic Planning for the council and city staff
- Veteran's Park parking lot will be paved by Wm Mueller & Son
- Oak Lane and 2nd Ave/Lift station is hoped to be done by Stiftungsfest

Other updates:

- Music in the Park – June 3rd. Sponsored by Senior Advisory/Harbor/Haven/PVilla. Carolyn will check in with Laurie and Bonita about any needs. Hallquist recommended to put on agenda in spring next year in preparation for event.
- Information from the Arts Consortium of Carver County #PurpleReigns campaign will be shared around town with the purple lights being added to the five way stop tree.
- Hart, Spille and Latzig will take the Oath of Office at the next meeting to join the Senior Advisory Commission. All three are very interested in helping to “spread the word” about all the good work the commission does.
- At 2pm on Friday at Veteran's Park, all local veterans are welcome to come for a photo op from Central Public Schools. There is a tribute being designed for the yearbook.

Adjournment

Motion: TS/CW to adjourn at 10:15am. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Hallquist, Economic Development Marketing Director