



Senior Center Committee August 2, 2024

Senior Center Committee members convened in person and online on Friday, August 2, 2024. Members and attendees joined the meeting in person at the McGovern Senior Center as well as online via Microsoft Teams.

Members Present:

Eugene Guskowski, *Commission on Aging, Chair*
Ted Rehl, SSC
Howard Snyder, SSC
Alice Steuck Konkel, SSC
Mark Behar, *Commission on Aging*

Members Excused:

Terrence Regan Moore Sr., *Commission on Aging, Vice-Chair*
Amber Miller, *AARP, Commission on Aging*
Ramona Dick-Williams

Members Excused Continued...

Kent Mayfield
Crocker Stephenson

Staff Present:

Cathy Wood, SOA
Miriam Kaja, SOA
Vonda Nyang, ADS
Jill Knight, *DHHS, AAA, ADS*
Domonique Klett, ADS
Daniel Idzikowski, *AAA, ADS*

Attendees from the Public

Denise White

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Gene Guskowski called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. Domonique Klett took attendance; a quorum was present.

II. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Today we welcomed new member, Ramona Dick-Williams and Crocker Stevenson to the committee. Neither of the new members was able to attend today's meeting.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 5, 2024 MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 19, 2024, MEETING MINUTES & June 7, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To accept the April 5, April 19, & June 7, 2024 meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Ted Rehl Moved, Mark Behar Second)

IV. COMMITTEE EXPANSION DISCUSSION

Daniel Idzikowski spoke about expanding and utilizing the Senior Center Committee's expertise around developing senior center programs and having that knowledge shared with whoever else outside of the Senior Center Committee that might help achieve the vision that's laid out and achieve the goal.

Mark Behar referenced Jim Mathey's Homelessness documentary and how it could be used as a model to replicate his success and apply it to the MKE Hubs.

Committee members consider who they can bring to the table and who they can get to speak to help push towards their goal.

V. AREA AGING PLAN SENIOR CENTER GOAL SETTING

Daniel Idzikowski shared the tri annual Area Agency on Aging (AAA) plan. AAA's objective is to develop and support community-based resources for the aging/older population. The principal role is planning, support, and development in how the agency assists the aging population.

It is required that the AAA plan is a grassroots plan that asks for the community's input and utilizes that information in combination with demographics/particular roles and using that data, formulates a plan. For example, AAA uses surveys to gather and compile information on what goals need to be met and what new goals the community may want to see in the new AAA plan. Daniel referenced a handout he provided the committee members entitled, *2025-27 Senior Center Goals Worksheet*. Committee members are encouraged to review the plan and give their initial thoughts on the goal and the direction it's going.

A goal might be to get and utilize more volunteers to promote senior centers and advance the goals of the committee. In order to do this, it's suggested a volunteer coordinator be hired to help organize the volunteers they already have (over 275 volunteers currently). The volunteers could be used to fix equipment, solicit donations, etc. Attendee Dennise White pointed out that sometimes people do not help simply because no one has asked so make sure the committee is asking for help, utilizing wish lists, and making things accessible in multiple plans. People tend to fulfill a wishlist over donating money. Committee member Ted Rehl suggests the committee expands on items they've already had success with. In order to get ownership, the committee should do things that garner immediate success/gratification.

VI. UPDATE ON THE RFP FOR PROGRAMMING IN THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY OWNED SENIOR CENTERS & PROGRAMMING FOR THE LATINO SENIOR CENTER

The RFP has been out for a month and will be available to view for 3 more weeks before it closes. Ideas and discussions from past Senior Center Committee meetings have been incorporated into the RFP. Despite outreach efforts, there was no interest in touring existing senior centers. Responses/feedback on the RFP will be collected until August 22nd. After that, the RFP will be awarded and the contract will be created for the chosen vendor. Any entity that is interested in the RFP can apply.

VII. LONG-TERM PLANNING: THE MKE HUBS REPORT IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVES

Chair Guszowski referenced the handout, *Senior Center Modernizations Short Term Initiatives* and how the highlighted information found in it overlaps with the improvements Milwaukee County wants to make to the Senior Centers. The information highlighted in green are the areas where goals could possibly be met if the Senior Centers partnered with others in the area.

The committee identifies three important initiatives:

1. How do we complete the items highlighted in yellow? i.e., could a budget be put in place annually to address these issues?
2. Lifelong and long-term partners are necessary.
3. There needs to be a commitment to make something happen/action

VIII. FUTURE MEETING TIME & LOCATION

The members in attendance agreed the Senior Center will meet the first Friday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

(Mark Behar Moved, Howard Snyder Second)

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Next meeting is September 6, 2024, at Washington Park Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Domonique Klett
Clerical Specialist I