



Senior Center Committee November 3, 2023

Senior Center Committee members convened in person on Friday, November 3, 2023. Members and attendees joined the meeting in person at the Kelly Senior Center.

Members Present:

Eugene Guszkowski, *Commission on Aging, Chair*
Alice Steuck-Konkel, *Commission on Aging*
Howard Snyder, *Commission on Aging*
Amber Miller, *AARP, Commission on Aging*
John Griffith, *Commission on Aging*
Miriam Kaja, *SOA*

Members Excused:

Terrence Regan Moore Sr.

Cherie Swenson
Kent Mayfield

Staff Present:

Dan Idzikowski, *DHHS, AAA*
Domonique Klett, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public:

Ted Rehl
Jim Sheridan, *SOA Board Member*
Bob Best, *SOA*
Mark Behar

MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
Domonique Klett took attendance.
- II. **WELCOME AND REVIEW OF CHARGE was done by Gene Guszkowski.**

The Milwaukee County Commission on Aging will establish a Senior Center Committee to advise the COA on matters of policies and programming relating to the Milwaukee County Senior Centers. In this capacity the Senior Center Committee will:

- Serve as a liaison between the COA and all existing and future Senior Centers
- Provide advocacy and strategic guidance

- Direct initiatives to implement the findings of the 2023 MKE HUBS
REPORT

III. **ACTION/DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

A. Discussion Item: Kelly Senior Center Tour and Discussion

No tour took place to prioritize the other agenda items.

B. Informational Item: Updates from Area Aging Unit Director, Daniel Idzikowski

- **Update on 2024 Service Provider Contract**

Under accordance the Senior Center Committee is required to re-bid their contracts every 5 years. The Department of Aging and Area Agency on Aging (AAA) have held contracts with Serving Older Adults (SOA) for the last 5 years. In the new contract, reformatting how the senior centers operate will be included. SOA will extend their contract through July 2024 which is when a new RFP releases that will have how they want the new operations to run as well as the budget to put into it.

Dan suggests the committee consider the following questions when coming up with new operations: Does this make sense, is it in line with the attributes, etc.

Funding should continue through tax levy dollars, Older American Act money and ARPA funds. The main challenge is trying to find a way to balance the needs of the operation vs just keeping the lights on.

- **Clinton Rose \$300K Kitchen/Food Service Improvements**

The Clinton Rose remodel has already been approved. The remodel of the kitchen/food service will take place during 2025-2026. A smaller remodel of Washington Park Senior Center is also drawn up, this will be more of an appliance replacement so that it will be up to code and functional as a demonstration kitchen. All 5 senior centers received cosmetic and functional upgrades such as new fitness equipment, sewing machines, surgers and mirrors.

An environmental review of fire and life safety measures has been done on all 5 senior centers. Other projects that will occur in the senior centers will be replacing all the lighting to LED, upgrading fixtures, installing outdoor canopies at entrances at any facilities that do not have one. New signs will be installed next week at all 5 senior centers.

- **Johnson Controls McGovern Park Initiatives**

A \$300k grant was awarded by Johnson Controls to upgrade the trails, grounds and recreations at McGovern Park as well as increased learning/classes, regarding community/health/wellbeing inside the McGovern Park senior center. Volunteers from the community will be involved in this project.

- **CBDG Grants in Milwaukee County Municipalities**

There is block grant money that 4 entities have received: City of Milwaukee, City of West Allis, City of Wauwatosa, and Milwaukee County. This money is to be used within the housing division. Over 50% of the other municipalities (excluding Milwaukee), used their allotment of money for senior services development. West Allis and Wauwatosa have their own senior centers and put their CBDG grant money into them. The city of Milwaukee itself has never invested any of their CBDG grant money into the senior centers whereas all the other cities have. Dan wants to develop a proposal to submit to utilize some of the CBDG grant money into the Milwaukee Senior Centers.

- **2024 Area Aging Plan Senior Centers Goal Ideas/SMART Measures Review**

Next year the Senior Center Committee will start planning for the 2025-2027 years. To achieve this, there will be a process of gathering valuable public input and guides on what to do such as what has been accomplished, what we still need to accomplish and what are our goals for the next 3 years. The advisory council will lead the process into formulating the plan and goals for the senior centers for all the commissions.

C. Discussion Item: Implementation of Initiatives

Senior Committee “Buckets” List—An outline of a Strategic Plan

The committee discussed which steps are most important and how do we get from one step to the other? Is there a strategical order. The goal is to get the vision of the Strategic Plan out by the Public Officials meeting in May 2024. A booklet was passed around that used A.I. to simulate a real visual of what a new Senior Center could really look like.

IV. Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

The next Senior Center Committee meeting will be held Friday, December 1, 2023 at Clinton Rose Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Domonique Klett
Clerical Specialist I