



SENIOR CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING May 1, 2026

Senior Center Committee members convened in-person and on Zoom on May 1, 2026, at Washington Park Senior Center 4420 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee.

Members Present:

Commissioner Eugene Guskowski, *Chair*
Commissioner Crocker Stephenson, *Vice Chair*
Commissioner Mark Behar
Ted Rehl
Howard Snyder
Alice Steuck Konkol
Cheri Swenson

Members Excused:

Commissioner Terrence R. Moore Sr.
Ramona Dicks Williams (Stepped Down)
Ted Rehl
Kent Mayfield

Staff Present:

Ortrialla Paris *DHHS*
Maria Melendes *DHHS*
Emily Kenny *DHHS*
Migdalia Pacheco *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Shannon Downie *SOA*
Michael Vanblaricum *SOA*
Maxine May
Vera Ford

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Gene Guskowski called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm p.m. Ortrialla Paris Administrative Assistant took roll; a quorum was not present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2026, MARCH 6, 2026, AND APRIL 3, 2026, SENIOR CENTER MEETING MINUTES.

MOTION: To accept the Senior Center Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Synder moved, Crocker second).

Amendments and Corrections:

February Minutes. A correction was requested regarding item 4, noting that the reference to “Milwaukee Seniors Hub Foundation” was missing a word and required clarification. It should read the group also discussed plans to reimagine senior centers and possibly create a foundation for support.

Motion: To accept the Amendments’ and corrections:

Action: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar moved, Snyder second)

March Minutes: A correction was requested regarding item 3, Section C, the title should say March Hearings regarding future of Senior Centers was held at McGovern Senior Center.

Motion: To accept the Amendments' and corrections:

Action: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar moved, Snyder second)

III. ACTION/ INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. UPDATE REGARDING SOLUTIONS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE MCGOVERN SENIOR CENTER

Enterprise Project Manager Maria Melendes reported that the committee is negotiating a lease with Embassy to provide services two or three days per week from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Embassy submitted a proposal and the committee issued a counterproposal; a response is pending. The Advisory Committee expects to finalize major terms by next week. The planned arrangement includes service days at Embassy and afternoon hours at Haven Woods on the remaining days. Services for the McGovern Park community are expected to resume around June 1, 2026, until a permanent location is available.

B. GUIDELINES FOR SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMMING

The committee agreed to lay the item over to a future meeting so members can review the draft RFP more thoroughly.

C. STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR FUTURE SUPPORT OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY SENIOR CENTERS

The committee discussion focused on exploring a public private partnership model for a Milwaukee County seniors related initiative. Participants reference local examples such as the Domes project and the recent Charles Allis Library Count agreement as models for how such partnerships can work.

The group also discusses the steps needed to create a formal support organization, including establishing an Friends group, applying for nonprofit status, and potentially using a fiscal agent to manage funds. There are questions about who could act as the fiscal agent and concerns about whether an existing "Friends" group is the best option. The meeting concludes with acknowledgement that this topic needs further agenda time in the next meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Behar moved, Crocker second)

The next Senior Center Committee meeting will be held on June 5, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Ortrialla Paris
Administrative Assistant