



Senior Center Committee July 7, 2023

Senior Center Committee members convened in person on Friday, July 7, 2023. Members and attendees joined the meeting in person at the Washington Park Senior Center.

Members Present:

Terrence Regan Moore Sr.
Cherie Swenson
Eugene Guskowski
Alice Steuck-Konkel
Howard Snyder
Kent Mayfield
Miriam Kaja
Cathy Wood

Members Excused:

Amber Miller

Staff Present:

Debbie Goodwin

Attendees from the Public:

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Gene Guskowski called the meeting to order at 10:10am. The Commission on Aging has decided to create a standing committee on Senior Centers.

A blueprint that envisions what a 21st century Senior Center might look like was distributed amongst the group members. These blueprints are a part of a Construction project and denotes how the space is used currently, what's there and how it can be better utilized and aligned.

Senior Center Committee members want to implement a Senior Center Report. The purpose of this report would be to determine how we can work with the senior centers themselves to give them a direct voice with the Commission on Aging.

Gene wants to hold all Senior Center meetings at the various county owned Senior Centers so that members can be familiar with them.

II. Washington Park Senior Center Orientation Tour and Discussion

Debbie Goodwin provided a tour of the Washington Park Senior Center. She discussed the Ambassador Program that she wants to implement at all of the Senior Centers.

An individual who works for the Ambassador Program takes the program participants and communicates with them in person rather than online to close the communication gap for those seniors who do not utilize media/technology.

Cathy Wood discusses how classes are now free with a suggested contribution/donation. In the past, the classes were funded by County Tax Levy dollars. Effective July 1, 2023, the funding source was changed to Older American Act and ARPA funding which freed up the County Tax Levy dollars to be used towards capital repairs of the 5 senior centers. The staff and DHHS is working with the state to try to come up with a loophole so that fees can be charged for the classes but until then it is required that the fees be listed as "suggested contributions."

The government funding only pays for about 65% of what it costs to run the senior center, so it is necessary to fundraise or rely on donations to cover the total costs. Rentals are an essential/contributing part to the Senior Center budget.

III. REVIEW and Approval of the April 28, 2023, and June 2, 2023, Commission on Aging meeting minutes

Due to time restraints, this was not discussed.

IV. Milwaukee County COA Senior Center Committee Mission, Responsibilities, Committee Membership Review and Discussion

More membership is needed with different skill sets. Cathy and Miriam will be in charge for gathering monthly data reporting.

A recap of the Commission's mission was given; Address the staff and volunteers of the Senior Centers and get feedback on what changes need to be made to apply their input into the changes being made to the facilities.

For the next meeting, a 30-minute discussion of the rules and regulations of what can and cannot be talked about during the committee meetings will be discussed.

V. Senior Committee Membership Initiatives Discussion

Committee members brainstormed how they can accurately gather data on the number of participants since most guests are still not utilizing the electronic registration project. It was also discussed as to how participants can be encouraged to register and how the age gap in the data can be closed.

VI. Meeting Schedule Discussion

Gene proposes meetings last 1.5 hours long and that they are scheduled monthly excluding December for the first 6 months. It is still being determined how many members should be on the committee? There only 4 technical members of the meeting present. The committee is unclear of what the legal definition/requirement for a quorum is?

VII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m

The next Senior Center Committee meeting will be held next month at an undecided date and time.

Respectfully submitted,

Domonique Klett
Clerical Specialist I