



SENIOR CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST 28, 2025

The Senior Center Committee members convened in person at Washington Park Senior Center, Room 1, 4420 W, Vliet St. Milwaukee, WI 53208, with a hybrid option on August 28, 2025.

Members Present

Commissioner Eugene Guszkowski,
Chair
Commissioner Mark Behar
Ted Rehl
Alice Steuck Konkel
Howard Snyder
Cheri Swenson
Kent Mayfield
Ramona Dicks Williams

Members Excused

Commissioner Amber Miller

Members Excused Continued...

Commissioner Terrence R. Moore Sr.

Staff Present

Carrie Koss Vallejo, *DHHS*
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Ortrialla Paris, *DHHS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Emily Kenney, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Mike Vanblaricum, *SOA*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Eugene Guszkowski called the meeting to order at 1 p.m., attendance was taken by the attendance sign in sheet. A quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 6, 2025, SENIOR CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The June meeting minutes were approved with an amendment to correct the location noting that the Bucyrus Erie meeting was held at Kelly Senior Center.

MOTION: To accept the June 6, 2025, Senior Center Committee meeting minutes

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Mayfield Moved, Konkel Second)

III. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION REVIEW

Emily Kenney, DHHS, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Transformation facilitated the strategic planning sessions. The discussions, focused on four key areas: space, programming, marketing and communications, and partnerships and funding. The group brainstormed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in each area and identified five main goals.

- Goal 1 Building Maintenance: Maintain and enhance current and future senior center buildings to ensure accessibility, functionality, and quality.
- Goal 2 Self-Governing Programs: Strengthen and promote self-governing programs as a primary model, emphasizing community building and volunteerism.
- Goal 3 Programmatic Partnerships: Develop diverse partnerships to support the HUGS report vision and create revenue opportunities.
- Goal 4 Messaging Strategy: Work with professionals to design a messaging strategy and materials that improve advocacy and outreach.
- Goal 5 Fiscal Sustainability: Establish a collective non-profit agency to support long-term sustainability and reduce reliance on public funding.

IV. UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SENIOR CENTERS

Daniel Idzikowski Director of Aging Services provided updates on the development and maintenance of senior centers, including Washington Park, Wilson, Clinton Rose, McGovern, and Kelly. Mr. Idzikowski reported that the Washington Park has been remodel and is now fully completed. Red Cross served as a shelter for relief at Washington Park.

V. ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT SENIOR CENTERS

Director of Strategic Initiatives and Transformation Emily Kenney suggested forming small groups to focus on tangible steps for each goal between the Senior Center committee meetings. These groups would report their progress and receive support during the meetings. Daniel Idzikowski provided updates on the ongoing development and maintenance projects at Washington Park, Wilson, Clinton Rose, McGovern, and Kelly senior centers. Notably, the County has partnered with a developer and the City of South Milwaukee to redevelop a building on the former Bucyrus industrial campus into a modern Senior Center, with a tour scheduled for September 23rd. The committee also raised concerns about Milwaukee County's long-term funding commitment for senior centers and discussed the need for advocacy and the potential establishment of a supporting

foundation. Commissioner, Denise Calloway expressed interest in guiding the foundation process. As next steps, members will form smaller groups focusing on programming, messaging, partnerships, and foundation development, indicating their interests and expertise to help organize these efforts.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Sincerely,

Ortrialla Paris
AAA Administrative Assistant