



Commission on Aging – Select Committee on Senior Centers Meeting March 8, 2022

Members Present:

Vice Chair Gene Guskowski
Commissioner John Griffith
Leon Davis
Sandra Dotson
Sharron Fitak
M. Kent Mayfield
Howard Snyder
Cathy Wood
Cherie Swenson
Deborah Lewis

Members Excused:

Chair Gloria Pitchford Nicholas
County Supervisor
Jason Haas
Patricia Delmenhorst
Debra Jupka
Alice Steuck Konkel

Sally Lindner
Kelsie Lyons

Milwaukee County Staff

Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*
Pam Matthews, *DAS*
Peter Nilles, *DAS*
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*
Carrie Vallejo, *DHHS*
Darryl Whyte, *DAS*

Attendees from the Public:

Ann Cook
Vevette Hill-Nwagbaraocha Laz
Jackson, *SOA*
Diane Lilich
Willie Mitchell, *MPS*
Sandra Quinlin, Grobschmidt
SC

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Gene Guskowski called the Select Committee on Senior Centers to order on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 1:11 p.m. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Program and Policy Coordinator Dan Idzikowski called the roll, and a quorum was present.

II. WELCOME AND REVIEW OF MEETING PURPOSE

Vice Chair Guskowski reviewed the charge listed below with the Committee and provided a summary of each agenda item to discuss at today's meeting.

1. Evaluate suggestions presented in the "Envisioning report
2. Categorize suggestions as long or short term.
3. Review programming and infrastructure needs at each Milwaukee County Senior Center.
4. Develop and monitor short and long-term plans for senior centers and senior center programming.
5. Ascertain resources necessary to carry out these plans.
6. Report findings and recommendations to the Advisory Council.

III. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Pitchford-Nicholas was absent from today's Senior Centers Committee meeting. Vice Chair Gene Guskowski discussed future meeting items. He noted that he has been asked to introduce the senior centers speaker at the upcoming Symposium at St. Johns. Kent Mayfield commented that there could be a display table with outreach material to share. The Symposium will be held on April 7th – 9th. You can register at no cost to which ever sessions you're interested to attend.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2022, SENIOR CENTER SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the February 10, 2022 Senior Centers Select Committee meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed unanimously (Fitak Moved, Griffith Second).

V. COORDINATION OF SENIOR CENTERS ACCESS & PROGRAMMING ACROSS MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Idzikowski mentioned that Chair Pitchford-Nicholas wanted this discussion to continue from last meeting to ensure that we have participation from all Milwaukee County agencies that touch on senior centers to coordinate our efforts to keep moving forward. Peter Niles, noted he is a member of the County Facilities Steering Planning Committee. He recommended to bring information from Select Committee to the CFSP meeting. The Committee's role is to provide enterprise-wide review of facility strategy discussions. Other members include managers from the County Parks, Zoo, and House of Corrections.

Vice Chair Guskowski asked Niles about the process for initiating construction projects at any of the five-owned Milwaukee County senior centers. Niles responded that more detail planning is required to develop a complete scope. Once a capital budget request is approved it would be assigned to the architecture engineering group and project manager. They would retain a design consultant and a bid packet would be assembled and be ready for contractors in the market. Niles currently has a capital planning manager who works on creating capital project charters, documents that describe a project scope, potential drivers, project risks, and schedule. He can get the capital planning manager to engage with the committee.

Snyder requested that the charter be forwarded to the project planning managers from Parks, Facilities, Department of Administration and Real Estate for them to view. Idzikowski, Peter Niles mentioned the process would be complicated but are trying to break down the silos.

VI. MILWAUKEE COUNTY SENIOR CENTERS ATTRIBUTES MATRIX

Vice Chair Guskowski reported that Laz Jackson, Cathy Wood and himself had the opportunity to visit five county senior centers. Wood then spoke of the experience meeting all five representatives from the County-owned senior

centers along with the five center managers. They were able to arrange a walk-through to discuss what is currently happening with each of the spaces to compare them to the attributes. They were able to help the representatives fill out the matrix, made sure they commented on what they liked or how make the centers more functioning. Guzkowski thanked Sandra, Alice, Debra, Shannon and Leon. For the next meeting, would like to prepare detailed responses to report and possibly a panel discussion.

Guzkowski asked questions of Niles in order to fully understand how ideas become conceptual budgets ideas and to understand whether the Committee needs to go to the County board for funding or if they can rely on AARP funding.

VII. ARPA FUNDING REQUEST

Idzikowski pointed out that Supervisor Haas was not present but did say he mentioned during the Advocacy meeting that next ARPA Taskforce meeting is Thursday, March 10, 2022. He mentioned he was not sure if the Senior Center proposal was on the agenda. Pam Matthews, budget liaison, commented there is no agenda posted yet on CLIC. There will be an additional meeting either for May or April 2022 for emergency items that need immediate attention. Currently new Board members are being elected and they will want to weigh in these important issues. Darrel Whyte commented he also has been working on a report with Tim Christian regarding the safety issues for the Senior Centers.

Idzikowski noted that ARPA is not the only available funding source. The County has always dedicated capital budget funding to the senior centers. Another option is CDBG money from County Housing or from the City of Milwaukee.

VIII. MILWAUKEE COUNTY SENIOR CENTERS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES: DISCUSSION TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m. (Guszkowski Moved. Lewis Second.)

The next Select Committee on Senior Centers meeting will be Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 3 p.m., virtually.

Respectfully submitted,
Christel Colorado, Executive Assistant