



**Commission on Aging
Senior Center Select Committee Meeting
April 12, 2022**

The **Senior Center Select Committee** convened virtually on Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and or conference call options (computer or telephone).

Members Present:

Chair Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas
Vice Chair Gene Guskowski
Commissioner John Griffith
Commissioner Cherie Swenson
Leon Davis
Sandra Dotson
Sharron Fitak
Alice Steuck Konkel
Deborah Lewis
Kent Mayfield
Howard Snyder
Cathy Wood, SOA

Members Excused:

Patricia Delmenhorst
County Supervisor Jason Haas
Debra Jupka
Sally Lindner

Members Excused:

Kelsie Lyons

Milwaukee County Staff

Andrew Bethke, DHHS
Daniel Idzikowski, DHHS
Jon Janowski, DHHS
Supervisor-Elect Peter Burgelis

Attendees from the Public:

Rita Bruce
Shelia Carter, SOA
Diane Chilinski, SOA
Ann Cook
Shannon Downie, SOA
Vevette Hill-Nwagbagaraocha, SOA
Miriam Kaja, SOA
Laz Jackson, SOA
Deborah Lewis
Lois Redic
Sue Reinhars
Lee Sprengel
Jack Tomlinson

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Pitchford-Nicholas called the Select Committee on Senior Centers to order. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Program and Policy Coordinator Daniel Idzikowski took roll call. A quorum was present.

- II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 8 AND MARCH 22, 2022, SENIOR CENTER SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES.** The meeting minutes for March 8, 2022, and March 22, 2022, were tabled for the next Senior Center Select Committee meeting.

III. WELCOME AND REVIEW OF MEETING PURPOSE

Chair Pitchford-Nicholas reviewed the charge listed below with the Senior Center Select Committee before the discussion. The Chair provided a summary of the purpose 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.

IV. UPDATE ON MILWAUKEE COUNTY DHHS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL AND ARPA REQUEST

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Aging Unit Director Jon Janowski provided an update on the ARPA and DHHS Housing Development proposal requests. The DHHS Housing Unit has set aside a portion of the Housing Development ARPA funds to develop a new subsidized housing unit which will include a Community Center. There is a possibility of two (One on the Northwest side of Milwaukee and the other in Cudahy). Director Janowski notified the Committee that although Milwaukee County's ARPA's Sub-Taskforce is meeting next Thursday, they will not address this until May, when the County's central ARPA taskforce meets.

Also, the City of Milwaukee's Housing Authority, Congressman Moore's Office, and Senator Baldwin's office have a similar concept and scope for the Westlawn project at a federal level, and the County has signed on to an earmark appropriations request for this project. Director Janowski provided information on the Westlawn project's processes, cost, focus, design, and programming that is incorporating a Community Center within the development. The Congress will need to review and approve the earmark request before the project moves forward.

V. SENIOR CENTER ATTRIBUTES MATRIX APPLICATION

Vice Chair Gene Guskowski met with SOA Director Cathy Wood, Laz Jackson, and all five County-owned Senior Center managers and their representatives to review and discuss the Senior Center Attribute Matrix. This document outlines 17 attributes of Milwaukee's County-owned Senior Centers that would be 21st Century centers. They reviewed the attributes and assessed how they could be applied to the centers as they exist now and if any changes are needed to meet the Committee's adopted vision.

Today the group is assembled to have a panel discussion to allow the Senior Center Select Committee to hear their responses from their meeting and provide feedback. Listed below are the names of the Senior Centers, SOA staff, and the centers' clients.

- Clinton Rose Senior Center (Shelia Carter and Deborah Lewis)
- Kelly Senior Center (Miriam Kaja and Sharon Fitak)
- McGovern Park Senior Center (Vevette Hill- Nwagbagaraocha and Leon Davis)
- Washington Park Senior Center (Diane Chilinski and Sandra Dotson)
- Wilson Senior Center (Alice Steuck Konkel and Shannon Downie)

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, MEETING TIMES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: No Announcements

VII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

The next Senior Center Select Committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 28, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang
Executive Assistant