



MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
**Department on Aging**

**Senior Center Select Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 20, 2021**

**Members Present**

Chair Gloria Pitchford-Nicholas  
Commissioner John Griffith  
County Supervisor Jason Haas  
Patricia Delmenhorst  
Sharron Fitak  
Dain Maddox  
Kent Mayfield  
Howard Synder  
Cathy Wood

**Members Excused**

Ruth Bevenue  
Leon Davis  
Gene Guskowski  
Victoria Jensen  
Debra Jupka  
Deborah Lewis  
Sally Lindner  
Jim Piontek  
Alice Steuck-Konkel

**Milwaukee County Staff**

Tim Christian, *DAS*  
Daniel Idzikowski, *DHHS*  
Pam Matthews, *DAS*  
Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*  
Carrie Ross Vallejo, *DHHS*  
Darrell Whyte, *DAS*

**Guests**

Mindy Anderson  
Ken Barbeau  
Maureen Conrad  
Sue  
Pat Dunn  
Thomas Gossett  
Laz Jackson  
Sam McGovern-Rowen, Milwaukee  
Public Library  
Katie Sanders, Milwaukee Public  
Museum  
James Sheridan

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – 25 present**

Chair Pitchford-Nicholas called the Select Committee on Senior Centers to order on Friday, August 20, 2021, at 1:01 p.m. DHHS Division on Aging's Program and Policy Coordinator Dan Idzikowski took roll. A quorum was present.

**II. WELCOME AND REVIEW OF CHARGE**

Chair Pitchford-Nicholas welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the Senior Center Select Committee's charge and today's meeting agenda with committee members. The charge is as follows:

- Evaluate suggestions presented in the "Envisioning" Report.
- Categorize suggestions as long or short term.

- Review programming and infrastructure needs at each Milwaukee County Senior Center.
- Develop and monitor short and long-term plans for senior centers and senior center programming.
- Ascertain resources necessary to carry out these plans.
- Report findings and recommendations to the Advisory Council.

### III. TRANSFORMATION OF MILWAUKEE PUBLIC CULTURAL ASSETS

The purpose of today's presentations is for the Senior Centers Select Committee to receive ideas and recommendations from other organizations with the goal of planning for revitalization of the County's five owned senior centers. How should the centers look and function? What types of programming should be offered in the future, and what partner organizations should be involved with the centers? For more information, see the PowerPoint presentations from MPM and MPL.

- **Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM), Katie Sanders, Chief Planning Officer (CPO):** CPO Sanders shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Advisory Council displaying how the Milwaukee Public Museum is transitioning into a new facility. She covered the museum's history and discussed their need for a new facility due to the infrastructure and maintenance, accreditation needs, and revenue issues.

MPM went through a planning and discussion process with getting and receiving feedback from the community, other businesses, and staff by conducting focus groups. After reviewing their vision – past, present, and future, Ms. Sanders discussed the museum's actions to determine its future. She reviewed the project timeline they had created and informed the Committee that they had decided to collocate with another museum, the Betty Brinn Children's Museum.

MPM has launched a campaign and secured state funding to find a new location, design, and build a new museum.

- **Milwaukee Public Library (MPL), Sam McGovern-Rowen, Project Manager:** The Milwaukee Public Libraries (MPL) needed efficient interior space, redesign, upgrades for technology. Project Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen oversees the redevelopment of five libraries. McGovern-Rowen explained why the MPL had moved their building model from a stand-alone library into a mixed-use with affordable housing. The buildings themselves were outdated and needed much maintenance. So, they needed to envision a new concept for library space. For example, they needed flexible space that would provide meeting rooms.

The Milwaukee Public Libraries redesign received assistance from the Mayor and Common Council, who had assisted them with capital budget funding. In addition to having apartment units as part of their mixed space, it helped save on operating and construction costs, and it was great for the neighborhoods. MPM had benefited from financial sources such as the new market tax credits.

The Senior Center Select Committee asked several questions about how they secured their funding and how they moved forward with their plans and finalized their vision of the new facilities. The advice given to the Senior Center Select Committee was to be patient as it takes years of planning to implement the ideas. And they strongly encouraged them to bring in the neighborhood and non-profit organizations for their input and help plan the new models, as they are both essential parts of the process and utilization of the facilities.

#### **IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JULY 21, 2021 SENIOR CENTER SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** To approve the July 21, 2021, Senior Center Select Committee meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Fitak moved, Snyder second).

#### **V. FUTURE OF SENIOR CENTERS VISION STATEMENT**

Howard Snyder and Gene Guszowski provided information to the Senior Center Select Committee on the vision statement draft for the Senior Centers. Snyder read the statement, and he and Guszowski discussed how it was developed and written and how they came up with the name "The MKE Hubs" for the new Senior Centers. Chair Pitchford-Nicholas recommended that the vision statement should be one of the topics added to the Senior Center Subcommittee's agenda for discussion.

Idzikowski reviewed the Senior Center Area Plan Goals with the committee and the previous 2019-2022 Area Aging goals and plan framework for creating and or revising Senior Center goals under the categories of Health Equity, Coordination and Communication, and Dimensions of Wellness. Idzikowski asked the Committee to reflect upon which senior center goals would align with the Plan.

The Senior Centers Committee should submit its Area Plan goals **by September 1, 2021**. The Chair asked for three representatives from the three subcommittees to serve on a special workgroup to designate these goals. Idzikowski will send out a Doodle Poll to all members with dates and times to have a meeting. Idzikowski extended the invite for those not on the committee who would like to provide feedback to contact him directly to share their ideas.

**VI. INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL DECISION POINTS FOR SENIOR CENTERS FUTURE AND SUBCOMMITTEE GUIDANCE”:** Item will be discussed at the Subcommittees meeting **on September 7, 2021, at 1 p.m.** Maddox advised the Committee to think about answers to the critical questions Idzikowski disbursed.

**VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No Announcements.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT: THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3 P.M.**

The next Select Committee on Senior Centers meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on Tuesday, September 17, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

**Note:** All reference Materials and Reports are Located on the Milwaukee CountyDivision on Aging Webpage: “Envisioning Our Senior Centers”:  
<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Department-on-Aging/Senior-Centers-Dining/Envisioning-Our-Senior-Centers>