

Senior Millage Allocation Committee
Friday June 6, 2014 8:20 a.m.
Marian E. Burch Adult Day Care Conference Room
1150 E. Michigan Ave., Battle Creek, MI 49014

MINUTES

Call to Order/Roll Call: Jim Haadsma at 8:20 a.m. and roll call

Roll Call Attending: Auton, Chappell, Haadsma, , Kalnins, Kale, Konkle, Powers, Tabb and Walker

Absent Excused: Booth, Clutter, DunnMoore

Staff: Brad Wilcox, Carl Gibson, Rodna Zuck and Lora Stevens

Visitors: Bev Bentley; Courtney Liles and Michelle Williamson, Community Action Agency; Tom Hollowood and Micki Ogilbee, Co-Chairs for Forks Senior Center Board; Kristin Jenkins, Marian Burch Adult Day Care; Jerry Hutchison, Dial-A-Ride Manager.

Agenda –Jim Powers and Joann Konkle: Motion, Second and Approved – Motion Carried

Minutes for May, 2014 – Jane Chappel and Drew Walker: Motion, Second and Approved – Motion Carried

Report: Contract Spending

- Spreadsheet handed out – Call Senior Services if you have any questions or comments.
- Meals increased and approved an extra \$45,000 for this program at last board meeting.
- Home heating assistance is capped out and needs additional assistance.
- Dental for the Senior - services discussion: current request for 4 clients with high oral surgical needs(extractions) up to \$5,000 each.

Old Business:

- Forks Senior Center (Micki Ogilbee and Tom Hollowood)
 - Ogilbee- Discussed the move to the County building in Albion, no contract signed yet. Current place is too small and parking is a big problem.
 - Short Vision –
 - Looking to increase the senior center services in Albion and make it a larger resource center for seniors.
 - County line problem with seniors and working with other agencies around Albion, i.e. Jackson County.
 - Will be looking at an outreach program for seniors that can't get to the center.
 - Work on increasing the health and wellness programs to the seniors.
 - Hollowood – Thanked the SMAC for the funds
 - He is listening to the needs of the membership and realizing that the building space and parking lot is too small for them. This move to the County Building is good for the center.
 - Reviewing the financial budget and he feels that the center is in a much better position than last year. They have cut spending and increased revenue and lowered staffing. Approximately \$10,000 better. They also received some monetary gifts this year.
 - Konkle questioned ability to pay higher rent.
 - It is \$1,800 a month which is an extra \$200 a month. Board is searching for ways to afford the increase.
 - Gibson – Stated that Meals program will have a larger area and this area should be locked into FSC lease.
 - Wilcox stated that the County lease plan proposed and he is going over the floor plan and finding out what is needed. Community Action does have a presence in the building, but only uses their space once a week and maybe that will be increased with the Fork Senior Center there. The County building in

Albion is under-utilized and this partnership would be great for the Seniors in the area and the County.

- Konkle, Tabb, Gibson, and Kale will do a walk through with Brad Wilcox. Hollowood and Ogilbee will be present also.

Old Business:

- **Senior Service Inc. - Meals Program**

- \$45,000 was recommended at last meeting (there is a surplus with Community Action program being eliminated at the end of April - \$62,000 not used and a total of \$75,000 available in future years).
- Liquid meals have been reduced as they do cost more than regular meals and there is not much research stating the health benefit from this product.
- They also cut down to 3 days for congregate meal program. (Monday, Wednesday and Fridays for the rest of the year.)

- **Personal Safety** – PERS clients will be having a new vendor, VRI. The new vendor's offices are in Ohio, but response is still local. The old vendor is calling clients and telling them that the ambulances have to come from OH and this is not true. Reassuring Seniors that they have a local response is important.

- **Community Action** – Courtney Liles and Michelle Williams presenting Home Heating Assistance Program.

- 77 homes were given assistance last year with 173 this year and 63 were new clients..
- Requesting an additional \$20,000 dollars to continue the remainder of the year.
- Normally they award between \$500 and \$750, but this year some were awarded up to \$1,000.
- DHS is currently denying all request from May to October, they have no more money.

Approval of \$20,000 Grant - Powers and: Motion, Second and Approved – ***Motion Passed***

- **Marian Burch Mini Grant request** for \$5,000 for upgrade of bath care and personal needs area.
 - It is hard for caregivers to take care of their seniors hygiene needs. Homes are not equipped with showers that accommodate the seniors frail nature.
 - Last year the Day Care Center gave 928 baths (621 were females and the rest males, all over the age of 60 yrs.)
 - The expenses will help with the upgrade and place mechanical lifts for the seniors to be moved directly into the tubs safely.
 - This grant will cost-share with other sources for the total renovation of \$80,000.

Approval of \$5,000 Grant –Chappel and Tabb: Motion, Second and Approved – Motion Passed

- **Dial-A-Ride** City of Marshall, Jerry Hutchinson, Manager
Describes the Service:
 - **MDOT** funded by State and Federal
 - New Freedom Program - Grant funded starting October 1, 2014 till September 30th, 2015. Covering 50% of the cost for transportation for the folks with disabilities from/to Albion to Marshall for any service. Community funding for the other 50%. This will cover operation cost and capital costs. The federal description of disabilities covers a lot of people not just seniors or wheelchair bound folks.
 - Looking at approximate cost of \$42,000 for the year and the City of Albion will need to cover half, \$21,000 (includes insurance costs).
 - Will need to purchase a new vehicle (bus) for this program. The bus cannot be ordered until the grant starts in October 1st, and will take 4 to 5 months to be made and delivered to the City of Marshall. This bus will hold 15 people and 2 in wheel chairs.
 - Looking at leasing a bus for \$1,800 a month until the new bus arrives. Need funding for leasing this bus.

- It will be a flex route, meaning that it will have a fixed route, but if someone calls in and makes an appointment then they will add into the route for that day. The route will run no matter how many people are on the bus.
- Staff will be training as they are currently that work for Dial-A-Ride.
- Running service Monday, Wednesday and Friday for 6 trips between Albion and Marshall. A route will design to cover as many seniors and disabled folks as possible. Later they will evaluate different locations also, i.e. Homer, Tekonsha.

Discussion:

- Konkle – How will you get the word out? Working with the different community services to get the word about this new program to the people in Albion.
- Chappell – Normal bus fares cost for each person? No, a couple of dollars for these folks, but anyone can ride the bus and they will have to pay the normal fare.
- Chappell– concerned about insurance costs. Those costs have been added into the funding amount. Yes it has.
- Chappell – This is all new to the Albion folks and there will need to be a route assigned for these people to follow. There is nothing much in Albion for people to get a ride on. There is a limited taxi service and Community Action van.
- Walker – Is Oaklawn Hospital and other medical offices that you will be stopping at helping with the funding for this program, as they will be benefiting from this service? Jerry has been working with the officials in Albion and they will be working with the Hospital and other places about this matter.
- Gibson – Jerry has been working with major officials and others in Albion on this project. There are still some areas to work out. This is NOT a senior transportation service, but a *Disabilities person* service. Difference will be the fair that is charged for these people.
- Tabb - How is this going to work out? CA has a van now for this service and now there will be a Dial-A-Ride van

that will be confusing to some of the citizens in Albion along with the taxi service in Albion that has a van.

- Williamson, Community Action – Albion does have a van that runs 5 days a week for Medical Services and Saturday mornings for anything. People need to call for an appointment ahead of time, no schedule route, but they will go to the door. They do see many people using their service for Dialysis at the Hospital. There is no cost to the people now. They just started asking for donations in the past month and have received \$1,000 from donations.
- Community Action will get some stats together for the van use they currently have, dispatched van related.
- Powers stated he thinks more people will use this service if there is a set route that they can depend on. Also concerned about CA and Dial-A-Ride servicing the same people.
- Gibson to set up a meeting with Hutchison to go over the recommendations for funding this program with Konkle and Tabb. They will meet with this committee and come back for a recommendation at the July SMAC board meeting. Hutchison is planning on meeting with the committee in the next few weeks and they will be invited.
- Konkle – concerned about bus manufacturer and MDOT overseeing that everything with the bus is manufactured correctly? Hutchison allayed any concerns.

Motion to table this till July SMAC meeting: Tabb and Powers: Motion, Second and Approved – *Motion Passed*


- Centenarians Luncheon
 - Seniors in Calhoun County 99 years and older
 - At Schulers in Marshall on Tuesday July 22 or 29. More to come
 - Kalnins will be helping Carl Gibson with this event
- Gibson – Spread sheet handed out that shows the services funding. He will be sending this out in an e-mail also to explain the layout..
- Chappell – Went to the State Capital (Lansing) for the Older Michiganian Day presentation, June 3rd.

- The land line bill has been approved and will be in effect 2017. Phone companies will not be required to maintain land lines. Rural areas will have a lot of work to do before this is completed and Life Lines Services will need to be supported.
- Personal Property Tax Law – she had many questions. A presentation on June 10th from 7am to 9am at Burnham Brook will have an open discussion about this new law.

**9:38 am Adjournment by Diane ‘Willy’ Kalnis and Joann Kondle,
Motion, Second - Adjourned**

**Next Meeting – July 11, 2014, 8:00 am – Senior Service – Garden Level
Conference Room**

NOTE: Next meeting is the second FRIDAY due to the 4th of July!

	<p style="text-align: center;">ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Questions regarding the minutes may be answered prior to the next Meeting by contacting the Office of Senior Services at 269-781-0846</p>
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