

Senior Millage Allocation Committee

Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Friday, December 4, 2020 8:00am – 9:30am

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call at 8:02am.

- a. **Attending:** Gary Tompkins (Homer Township, MI), Willie Tabb (Albion, MI), Michelle Hill (Emmett Township, MI), Jim Powers (Marshall Township, MI), Jill Booth (Elmira, MI), Rochelle Hatcher (Battle Creek, MI), Tom Hunsdorfer (Albion, MI), Yvonne Chapman (East Leroy, MI), Bob Lyng (Marshall Township, MI), Richard Lindsey (Jackson, MI), Art Kale (joined at 8:40am from the Village of Homer, MI), Teresa Schell (joined at 9:02am from Brighton, MI)

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. Motion to accept agenda – **Lindsey & Hatcher: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 11-0 with two excused.**

3. Approval of the November 6, 2020 Minutes

- a. Motion to accept minutes – **Booth & Lindsey: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 11-0 with two excused.**

4. Introductions and Citizen's Comments

- a. **Staff:** Manager Helen Guzzo (Battle Creek, MI); Specialist Kate Turner (Marshall, MI) & Intern Emily Batch (Battle Creek, MI)
- b. **Introductions:** Karla Fales, CEO, CareWell Services; Luann Sommers, Executive Director, Forks Senior Center; Jen Bomba, Director, Calhoun County Community Development; Kitty Knoll, Coordinator, Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center; Linda Grap, Director, Senior Health Partners; Lucy Blair, Communications Manager, Calhoun County; Carl Gibson; Brad Wilcox, Assistant Administrator, Calhoun County
- c. **Citizen's Comments:**
 - i. Linda Grap: Linda is retiring on December 31st and thanked everyone for the partnerships over the past several years. Linda will be missed, and we wish her the best in retirement!
 - ii. Tom Hunsdorfer: a few Albion area colleagues have contracted COVID, please keep them in your thoughts.

5. Reports

a. Budget Report

Invoices are in for the first ten months of the year, equating to 83% thru the year. With two months (or 17% of the year) remaining, just under \$1 million (or 33%) is left in the contractual budget.

At the November SMAC meeting members approved the Transportation program using \$20,000 of unspent funds to do a marketing campaign to educate riders on the safety precautions being taken and hopefully to increase ridership. Community Action is going to wait until the current surge in COVID cases has decreased to start that campaign. Transportation will likely have quite a bit left in their contract due to the drastic reduction in rides. They are also down drivers, with several stepping back due to concerns about their own health and with one passing away earlier this year due to COVID.

Meals is another program with quite a bit left in their budget, but they are expected to spend most or all their remaining funds by the end of December.

Manager Helen Guzzo is considering issuing the Talons Out Honor Flight mini-grant with 2020 dollars since money is left in that line item, even though the flight is not scheduled until 2021. Helen reports that there is \$75,000 budgeted for in 2021 that will not be spent. \$25,000 from the Senior Health Partners Partnership that no longer exists, and \$50,000 for Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center which did not receive any bids in the contractual RFP. Helen suggests that perhaps this money could be reallocated to Minor Home Repair, but this will be formally discussed and decided upon by SMAC in a meeting next year.

Administrative spending will continue to be underspent largely because of the administrative assistant position remaining vacant.

Helen did not budget Firekeepers dollars in 2021 because she is not expecting they will have additional revenue to share after the COVID-19 shutdown.

Brief conversation was had on whether unspent dollars should be held onto for emergency funding as we continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. To see most current numbers for the county and to see a breakdown in cases and deaths by age, please visit the county's cumulative data website page at:

https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/departments/public_health_department/cumulative_data.php

b. Manager's Report

Please see the manager's report for an update on recent office activities.

c. Heritage Commons Senior Center Steering Committee

Diane Peters is the newest member of the steering committee. The steering committee's main goal is finding a permanent location, and a Site Selection subcommittee has been formed to work on this. A volunteer architect has been engaged, the old Goodwill space in the Kmart plaza seems to be the top contender but nothing is set in stone.

6. New Business

a. Joanne Konkle Leadership Award 2021

This award was created by SMAC at the request of Art Kale in 2017 and has become a wonderful tradition. Manager Helen Guzzo will update the nomination form to reflect an April 2, 2021 due date with the awardee being honored at a Board of Commissioners meeting in May

2021. Motion to offer the Joanne Konkle Leadership Award in 2021 – **Booth & Hatcher: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 12-0 with one excused.**

b. Reducing Social Isolation among Older Adults

Tom Hunsdorfer shared his concern about the social isolation of older adults, a problem which has been exacerbated by COVID-19. Tom, Gary Tompkins, and Manager Helen Guzzo met earlier in the week and are proposing the creation of a Social Isolation Subcommittee to develop a plan and possible solutions to address social isolation. Tom envisions this subcommittee will meet intensively over the next couple months and come up with a plan to present to SMAC at its March 5, 2021. The core mission of this group is the psychological well-being of older adults. He feels strongly that a volunteer component needs to be included as older adults need to have avenues through which they can feel useful and can assist their peers. There especially needs to be strong outreach to rural seniors at the local level, and perhaps this is where Tom's original idea of senior navigators could come into play. Some possible project ideas in concept paper include recognizing the birthdays of those 80 and older, and the formation of "SWAT teams" (Senior Wellness Action Team): local churches or service organizations that could respond quickly to senior needs that do not fit within current program offerings (i.e. moving).

Richard Lindsey would like to see a connection to Summit Pointe, as they just purchased a new building to establish a psychiatric emergency department, which is something that is greatly needed in the county. Carl Gibson suggests connecting with Dr. Maureen Mickus who is well known in the Marshall area.

Motion to create a Social Isolation Subcommittee – **Lindsey & Lyng: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 12-0 with one excused.**

7. Next SMAC Meeting: Friday, January 8, 2021, 8am

8. Good of the Order

- a. Karla has 265 "Q Boxes" at the Burma Center that need to get out to the Marshall/Albion area. Volunteers and a truck would be appreciated. Contact Karla if you can help, either by phone on her cell at 269-578-6168 or by email kfales@carewellservices.org. Tom and Willie offered to help in Albion. Rochelle will be touch in regards to her involvements with New Level Sports.
- b. SMAC members were thanked for showing holiday spirit and participating in the holiday outfit competition. Michelle Hill was the clear winner for her poinsettia headdress and flashing lights. The holiday outfits added a bit of hilarity to our usual meeting.

9. Adjournment at 9:15am.

Respectfully submitted, Kate Turner