

# Senior Millage Allocation Committee

Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Friday, June 5, 2020 8:00 am – 9:30 am

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## MINUTES

1. **SMAC meeting called to order by Chairperson Gary Tompkins at 8am. Roll called.**
  - **Attending:** Gary Tompkins, Michelle Hill, Jim Powers, Yvonne Chapman, Diane Peters, Richard Lindsey, Jill Booth (left at 8:49am), Robert Lyng, Thomas Hunsdorfer, Art Kale, Willie Tabb (arrived at 8:30am), Teresa Schell (arrived at 8:16am)
  - **Absent:** Rochelle Hatcher
2. **Approval of Agenda**
  - Motion to accept agenda – **Lindsey & Booth: Motion, Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 10-0, with three absent.**
3. **Approval of the minutes of the May 1, 2020 SMAC meeting**
  - Motion to accept minutes – **Lyng & Lindsey: Motion, Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 10-0, with three absent.**
4. **Introductions and Citizen's Comments**
  - Introductions: Jen Bomba, Calhoun County Community Development Director; Jim Dyer, Calhoun County Corporate Counsel; Doug Ferrall, Calhoun County Parks Manager; Luann Sommers, Executive Director – Forks Senior Center; Lucy Blair, Calhoun County Communications Manager; Amanda Bidinger, Development Manager – Alzheimer's Association; Linda Grap, Director – Senior Health Partners; Kitty Knoll, Coordinator – Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment
    - i. Emily Batch – Western Michigan University BSW student, has been hired as a paid intern, will get trained as a MMAP counselor and will be prepared to see clients during fall open enrollment.
5. **Special Presentation:**
  - a. **Calhoun County Parks & Recreation Millage, and Countywide Transportation Recommendations**

Calhoun County Parks Manager Doug Ferrall spoke about the Parks and Recreation millage request that will be on the August 4 ballot along with the Senior Millage renewal. The proposal is a five-year millage at a rate of .2 mills. The owner of a property worth \$150,000 would pay an estimated \$15 per year. The millage would generate approximately \$730,000 per year to be used to operate, preserve, acquire, maintain, and develop parks in Calhoun County. 50% of the millage revenue (\$365,000) would be available to all municipalities for local park projects, with each allocation based on population size. The remaining 50% of funds would be used to develop and maintain county parks. To see an estimate of how much each municipality would receive, please go to [www.calhouncountymi.gov/parksmillage](http://www.calhouncountymi.gov/parksmillage) Each municipality has to decide whether or not to accept the funds. If they don't receive funds, it goes back into a pool for other municipalities.

### **Calhoun County Senior Services Mission:**

*Enhance, promote, and ensure the availability of needed quality services for Calhoun County seniors through the effective and efficient allocation of County Senior Millage resources.*

Manager Ferrall also presented the findings from the Countywide Transportation Study. The study received nearly 800 responses and respondents had the following preferences for public transportation: longer wait times if it means there is less walking; higher cost of services if it means the services is more frequent. 40% of respondents said they were “likely” or “very likely” to take Dial-a-Ride transit and/or local bus services. Other preferences included: same-day ride requests; discounted price options (i.e. seniors, veterans, medical appointments); longer evening hours; affordable fares; and service out of the county. It is estimated that the demand for service in the County (if including only general public, outside of Battle Creek area) is about 92,000 trips annually. Discussion on funding and what the timeline for achieving countywide transportation looks like. Plans have been put on hold due to COVID-19.

**b. Alzheimer’s Association, Michigan Great Lakes Chapter**

**Amanda Bidinger, Development Manager**

The Alzheimer’s Association is planning to keep events and support groups online for the foreseeable future due to serving a vulnerable population. The Alzheimer’s Walk is still planned for August 22, but it is still unknown what the event may look like. Amanda will hopefully know more after July 1<sup>st</sup> and will share that information as it becomes available. Calhoun County Senior Services sponsors the event in the amount of \$1,000.

**6. Reports**

**a. Budget Report**

Vendors should have 68-70% of funds remaining, and most vendors are on track. Dental is at 50% because they get advance quarterly payments, but the Fountain Clinic has asked to not draw the third quarter payment yet due to the COVID-19 shutdown. Home Heating is at 33% remaining but has received state and federal funding which Community Action will use first and then ask for a supplemental later this fall. The office admin budget is underspent due to Lora Stevens retiring and her position not being filled, Helen is going down to 32 hours a week, and Kate is down to 24 hours a week. Helen will keep a close eye on spending, as some programs may not be able to spend all their dollars while others may need increased funding.

**b. Manager’s Report**

Reviewed the 80 exceptions to program limits Helen approved in 2019. The majority were for Minor Home Repair and Handy Helper. To address the high number of exception requests for the Minor Home Repair program, Helen gave Community Action the authority to designate a project an emergency. Conversations were had with Senior Services of Southwest Michigan about increasing the program limit of Handy Helper (currently \$400/senior/year), but staff were not interested in doing so.

In the June 3<sup>rd</sup> All Vendor meeting many vendors asked if they could use Senior Millage dollars to purchase PPE for staff and participants. These dollars would come from current funding. Helen would like to approve this request.

Due to ridership being down on Senior Transportation, Community Action asked for permission to use current Senior Millage dollars to deliver 400 commodity food boxes to seniors. Helen approved this request, saying Community Action could bill for a one-way ride. This prompted discussion among SMAC members about the cost of transportation. Currently Community Action bills Senior Millage \$17.25 per ride. SMAC would like to hear from Community Action at the July meeting to gain clarification on whether Senior Millage was billed per box or per trip, and to better understand the costs associated with the Senior Transportation program.

**c. Senior Millage Renewal**

Renew for Seniors committee will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, June 9 at 6pm. Richard Lindsey will host. Work was interrupted due to pandemic. Getting ready to order yard signs. Renewal vote is two months away.

**7. New Business**

**a. Move July SMAC meeting from July 10 (Fri., July 3 is a County Holiday) to Thursday, July 2 or Friday, July 17?**

Location is TBD. The July meeting may be via Zoom, or perhaps in the basement of the Toeller Building in Battle Creek. **Hunsdorfer & Kale: Motion, Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried 11-0, with one absent and one excused.**

**d. Senior Strategic Projects Request for Proposals (RFP)**

It was hoped to have released the Senior Strategic Projects RFP in March, but this RFP has been delayed due to COVID-19. Helen met with Brad Wilcox to go over the RFP, and will need three SMAC members to help develop the RFP. This subcommittee will most likely meet five times, probably via Zoom. Helen would like to release the RFP in the next five weeks, giving vendors a 60-day response period. The regular contractual RFP will be released in September, sometime around Labor Day.

**e. Revision to Senior Millage vision statement: Health, safety and wellness to replace safety, dignity and independence?**

Move discussion to Strategic Planning agenda.

**8. Upcoming Events (update):**

- **Friday, June 26, Nominations for the Joanne Konkle Senior Service Leadership Award due**
- **Thursday, July 16, 7pm, Board of Commission, Joanne Konkle Leadership Award Ceremony**
- **Tuesday, August 4, Senior Millage on the ballot for renewal**
- **Saturday, August 22, Alzheimer Annual Walk/Event, Binder Park Zoo**
- **Friday, August 28, SMAC Strategic Planning, 9am-3:30pm**

**9. Adjournment at 9:45am.**

Respectfully submitted, Kate Turner

**Calhoun County Senior Millage**

**Mission:** *Enhance, promote, and ensure the availability of needed quality services for Calhoun County seniors through effective and efficient allocation of County Senior Millage resources.*

**Vision:** *Calhoun County Senior Millage - Funding choices for seniors, age 60 and over, while promoting health, safety, and wellness (replacing safety, dignity and independence)*

**Core Values:**

- Seniors have *access* to the services they need because the delivery system is *well-coordinated* and *collaborative*.
- Seniors are *valued* members of our community.
- Seniors have *choices* about *where* and *how* they live in our community.
- Seniors can live *independently* in the community for as long as possible.