

Senior Millage Allocation Committee

Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Friday, September 11, 2020 8:00 am – 9:30 am

MINUTES

1. **Moment of silence to remember September 11, 2001**
2. **Call to Order/Roll Call at 8:02am.**
 - **Attending:** Gary Tompkins, Michelle Hill, Willie Tabb, Bob Lyng, Tom Hunsdorfer, Yvonne Chapman, Richard Lindsey, Jill Booth, Diane Peters, Jim Powers (8:04am), Art Kale (8:06am), Willie Tabb (technology issues)
 - **Absent:** Rochelle Hatcher, Teresa Schell
3. **Approval of Agenda**
 - Motion to accept agenda – **Booth & Lindsey: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 8-0 with five absent.**
4. **Approval of the minutes of the August 7, 2020 SMAC meeting**
 - Motion to accept minutes – **Lyng & Lindsey: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 9-0 with four absent.**
5. **Introductions and Citizen's Comments**
 - **Introductions:** Mary Frisby, Director, Marian Burch Adult Day Care; Brad Wilcox, Calhoun County Assistant Administrator; Linda Grap, Director, Senior Health Partners; Luann Sommers, Executive Director, Forks Senior Center; Marcia Starkey, Executive Director, Albion-Homer United Way; Jen Bomba, Director, Calhoun County Community Development
 - **Citizen's Comments:**
 - i. Linda Grap shared that exercise classes had restarted in COVID-safe ways, and CCO services are continuing as well.
6. **Reports**
 - a. **Senior Millage Budget Report**

Manager Helen Guzzo shared that she is concerned about transportation, as they still have 68% of their contract to spend. The meals program is another area of concern though they are currently spending other CARES ACT and other emergency funding first and will then switch to Senior Millage funds during the last three months of the year. Marian Burch and Heritage Commons are no longer drawing funds. The mini-grant to Marshall Mobile Meals has not yet been paid as they do not have a current EIN number. Guzzo and Bob Lyng will be attending their board meeting on September 17, and Guzzo plans to have answers as to whether an EIN number is required by the county and how to help Marshall Mobile Meals obtain that number if needed.

[September 15 update: SMAC member Richard Lindsey looked further into the EIN number issue and found Mobile Meals had added a digit to their EIN number. He determined the correct number which was a big help](#)

. A check will be sent as soon as it is processed by county finance.

b. Manager's Report

Property values are forecasted to remain stable in 2021, so no contract spending will need to be cut. Provided an overview of the Senior Strategic Project process.

Discussion of the need to relocate Heritage Commons into new larger space. SMAC member Richard Lindsey has suggested using the Marshall United Methodist Church as an interim location until a permanent space can be found. Helen went to look at the former Goodwill Space in the Kmart Plaza with Bill DeSmet and Jack Reed as a possible location. Lindsey is willing to donate his time and legal expertise to help Heritage Commons incorporate as a 501c3, there is a \$50 fee with the state, and a \$600 fee to obtain a non-profit status. Manager Helen Guzzo will encourage the Heritage Commons steering committee to start meeting again. Jim Powers and other SMAC members discussed that to move forward Heritage Commons Steering Committee needs to start meeting again and will probably need to incorporate as a separate nonprofit in the Forks Senior Center model.

MMA Central placed a ban on in-person counseling, the Senior Services office requested an in-person waiver which was granted by the State coordinating office but then was rescinded by CareWell Services. CareWell CEO Karla Fales thinks she may be able to allow in-person counseling by October 1, but with Calhoun County still experiencing community spread of COVID and the State still not opening up to a higher phase, it is hard telling what may happen between now and then. The Senior Services office feels strongly that in-person counseling, with proper precautions in place, is the best way to handle Open Enrollment.

7. New Business

a. Approve 2021 Budget

Administrative spending has decreased, mostly due to COVID. The two biggest factors are staff not traveling or attending conferences, and the ability to decrease advertising since the millage was renewed. In addition, the Senior Services office used to pay \$50,000 to the County Administration but because of the County's Cost Allocation plan that amount has been decreased to \$27,000. With the retirement of Lora Stevens and the delayed replacement due to COVID, the Senior Services office has worked to become more integrated into Community Development. The budget uses small amount of fund balance in 2021 about \$22,000, but then will not use fund balance for contractual spending going forward into 2022 and beyond. Discussion on perhaps developing a finance subcommittee, which was not seen as necessary. **Booth & Lindsey: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 11-0 with two absent.**

b. Strategic Planning Follow-Up Revise Vision Statement: *Promoting health, safety and independence*

Tabled until October.

c. Senior Strategic Projects Funding Recommendations

Fourteen proposals were received, review committee was very conscious about not wanting to fund projects that were not senior-specific, capital campaigns that were

not specific to seniors and building projects that seem like they should be part of regular maintenance of buildings. Of the fourteen proposals, seven were invited to give a presentation, and four are being recommended for funding. The recommended proposals were emailed to SMAC members, along with any presentation materials, for their review.

Following today's meeting, Manager Helen Guzzo will contact each vendor and inform them of SMAC's decision. Appeals will be heard at the October 2 SMAC meeting, and then funding recommendations will go to the Board of Commissioners at their October 15 meeting.

i) Albion Community Foundation, Senior Housing Predevelopment: \$150,000

Funding the predevelopment of this project is risky but very strategic. Albion loses many of its middle class senior community members to other communities that offer senior-specific housing. Keeping seniors in their community is a win-win.

Lindsey & Lyng: Motion, Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 10-1 with two absent.

ii) Albion Community Gardens, Purchase of Fencing, Irrigation & a Rototiller: \$34,365

The Albion Community Gardens has been a great incubator for intergenerational, interracial programming. While Senior Millage is the only source of funding for these items, the Gardens also receive support from area churches and typically host a chili fundraiser. **Power & Booth: Motion, Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 8-2, with one abstaining (Willie Tabb) and two absent.**

iii) Albion Health Care Alliance, 50% of eye equipment: \$16,225

There are currently no eye care services available in the Albion area. This project has been in the works for three years now and will be strategically housed in the Cram Building along with dental services provided by Grace Health, mental health services provided by Summit Pointe, and community navigators. The subcommittee is recommending funding half the equipment costs as the equipment will be used for all ages, not just seniors. **Lindsey & Hill: Motion, Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 11-0 with two absent.**

iv) Senior Care Partners P.A.C.E., Grandpads: Not to exceed \$100,000

While the subcommittee is supportive of this innovative way to combat social isolation in seniors, they felt the ask was too much, and would have liked to see a demonstration of the technology. The funding limit gives Manager Helen Guzzo and Assistant Administrator Brad Wilcox the authority to negotiate a performance-based contract and work out specific milestones upon which to release funding. SMAC member Jill Booth shared a testimonial about a client who received a Grandpad through the PACE program and has absolutely loved it. **Booth & Kale: Motion, Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 11-0 with two absent.**

d. Marian Burch Contract Amendment to Allow for Vestibule Repairs: \$13,411 Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EIFS)

In a typical year, revenue from the adult day care would be used to make infrastructure repairs, but due to the closure since March, funds are not currently

available. Adult day care will not resume until the state allows for visitors to care facilities, as Marian Burch is connected to the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility. Manager Helen Guzzo and Assistant Administrator Brad Wilcox do not believe the county has ever made repairs to the care facility, despite "Calhoun County" being in its name. The care facility has its own operating millage.

The original adult day care contract was for \$90,000, and \$23,230 had been spent prior to the closure. Earlier in the year, \$46,700 was released and reallocated to other Senior Millage contracts. The repairs would come out of the remaining \$20,070 left in the contract. **Hunsdorfer & Hill: Motion, Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 8-2 with one abstaining (Willie Tabb) and two absent.**

**e. Albion-Homer United Way Food Box Distribution Mini-Grant Request: \$5,000
Marcia Starkey, Executive Director, Albion Homer United Way**

The need for food distributions has continued, and distributions are currently taking place during the second, third, and fourth weeks of each month. Conversation on the Albion Food Hub being sold, and the need for some sort of main coordinating group, as lots of non-profits are involved in the various food distributions taking place around the county. **Lindsey & Hunsdorfer: Motion, Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 9-0 with two abstaining (Gary Tompkins and Art Kale) and two absent.**

8. Next SMAC meeting is Friday, October 2, 8am-9:30am by Zoom

9. Adjournment at 9:51am.

Respectfully submitted, Kate Turner