

Senior Millage Allocation Committee

Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Friday, May 7, 2021 8:00am – 9:30am

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Attending: Commissioner Gary Tompkins (Homer Township, MI); Bob Lyng (Marshall Township, MI); Commissioner Jake Smith (Battle Creek, MI); Willie Tabb (Smyrna, GA); Tom Hunsdorfer (Albion, MI); Diane Peters (Marshall, MI); Richard Lindsey (Marshall, MI); Yvonne Chapman (Leroy Township, MI); Dominic Oo (Battle Creek, MI); Jill Booth (Elmira, MI); Michelle Hill (Emmett Township, MI); Art Kale (Homer, MI); Jim Powers (Marshall Township, MI)

2. Consent: Approval of Agenda and April 2, 2021 Minutes

- a. Motion to accept agenda and minutes – **Booth & Lyng: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 13-0.**

3. Introductions and Citizen's Comments

- a. **Staff:** Manager Helen Guzzo (Marshall, MI), Specialist Kate Turner (Marshall, MI), Administrative Assistant Rebecca de Finta (Marshall, MI)
- b. **Introductions:** Kitty Knoll, Coordinator, Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center; Trisha Franzen, Coordinator, Albion Community Gardens and Professor, Albion College; Jen Bomba, Community Development Director, Calhoun County; Brad Wilcox, Assistant Administrator, Calhoun County; Rod Auton, Director, Albion Health Care Alliance; Luann Sommers, Executive Director, Forks Senior Center; Laura Ferrara, CEO, Senior Care Partners; Susan VanderWeide, Program Manager, Senior Health Partners; Marie Ames, Volunteer Coordinator, Lee Township Senior Social; Jennifer Conley Darling, Owner/Operator, EastEnd Studio & Gallery

4. Presentations, Updates on 2020 Senior Strategic Project funding

a. Albion Community Gardens Expansion

Trisha Franzen shared that the fencing has been purchased and installed, and a new rototiller has also been purchased. The next project is to install the second water source, which the Gardens are currently working on with the City of Albion. Franzen shared that the Gardens have also received funding from the Albion Community Foundation, Albion Area Philanthropic Women, Albion College, Men of Vision, Run Albion, and they typically hold a chili dinner fundraiser but that has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Manager Helen Guzzo highlighted the strong intergenerational and interracial aspects of this programming.

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b. Albion Health Care Alliance: Eye Care Equipment for Service Expansion in Albion

Rod Auton shared that after many delays due to COVID-19, optometry services are scheduled to begin June 11th, with ophthalmology services following sometime in July, both in the Cram Building. To start with, the providers will just be seeing Senior Millage patients once or twice a month, and they will slowly progress to spending more days in Albion. Both providers currently work in Marshall and have patients who live in the Albion area, so it is expected that those patients will switch to the new location once services are more fully established. Manager Helen Guzzo shared that the full contract amount has been spent. Other funders for this expansion project included the Albion-Homer United Way and the Battle Creek Community Foundation.

5. Reports

a. Budget & Manager's Reports

As of March 31st, 22% of 2021 contractual budget has been spent, meaning spending is currently on track. \$50,000 was allocated for mini grants, with \$28,500 having been committed prior to today's meeting. There is the possibility that a budget adjustment may be needed to add funds to the mini grant budget, as several proposals are still expected. These dollars would come from unspent funds in other programs.

b. Celebrating Calhoun County Centenarians 2021

Please see Manager Helen Guzzo's report for an update on this project. Blufish Consulting will be taking pictures the week of May 17th, and Administrative Assistant Rebecca de Finta is beginning to design the traveling display.

c. Heritage Commons Senior Center Steering Committee

CareWell Board of Directors approved signing a ten-year lease for the former Goodwill space in the Kmart plaza in Marshall with a goal to complete the renovation by the end of the year. In-depth discussion was had on the lease being signed prior to Senior Strategic Project funding being recommended for construction cost use, and the concern over Heritage Commons not yet incorporating into a separate 501c3 entity.

6. New Business

a. Joanne Konkle Leadership Award: Linda Grap, Retired from Senior Health Partners

Two nominations for the professional award were received. A Review Subcommittee consisting of Willie Tabb, Michelle Hill, Art Kale and Helen Guzzo made the recommendation for Linda Grap who had been nominated by her staff member, Anne Clark, and Carl Gibson.

The Review Subcommittee strongly recommended that the actual award ceremony be moved from the virtual format for the May 20th Board of Commission meeting until later in the year so that it could be conducted in person.

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Brief discussion was had on working to find more volunteer nominations for future awards.
Kale & Lindsey: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 13-0.

b. Funding Recommendations from the Senior Strategic Projects RFP Review Subcommittee

i. Albion Community Table, Food Distribution Relocation - \$17,500

Senior Millage is only paying a portion of the relocation costs, and this funding will also help to strength data collection efforts to get a better picture of who is participating in food distributions. **Lyng & Lindsey: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 13-0.**

ii. Heritage Commons Renovations - \$125,000 with \$50,000 match challenge

Continued conversation over concerns about the lease already being signed and Heritage Commons not incorporating into their own 501c3. Hunsdorfer & Powers motioned to approve the request. Upon further discussion, Hunsdorfer & Powers withdraw their motion. **Booth & Lindsey move to table the decision until the June 4 meeting. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 13-0.** Further discussion will be held with CareWell Services and CEO Karla Fales prior to the June 4 SMAC meeting to address the concerns raised during the discussion.

c. Mini-Grant Request: Albion Community Gardens - \$5,000

This mini grant would help to fund a part-time gardening assistant in the Gardens. **Powers & Lindsey: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 12-0 with one abstaining.**

d. Mini-Grant Request: Lee Township Tuesday Senior Social - \$1,500

Lee Township would be the fiduciary of this mini grant and would reimburse Marie Ames for costs incurred in providing the meal each week. The Senior Social group starting meeting in January 2021 after discussions about it in the fall. Participation is growing and for many of those who attend, this is the only social activity they have participated in since the pandemic started. **Kale & Lindsey: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 13-0.**

e. Mini-Grant Request: Albion Health Care Alliance, Commodity Distribution - \$2,250

Last year the Albion Health Care Alliance started assisting with a commodity distribution on site at Peabody Place and George Mather Apartments in Albion. This mini grant helps to fund a portion of the staff time spent working on this project. **Peters & Hunsdorfer: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 13-0.**

f. Mini-Grant Request: EastEnd Studio Senior Art Classes - \$5,000

SMAC funded a similar program back in 2018 for art classes at the Forks Senior Center and Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center. The classes this year will take place in EastEnd's second floor classroom, which is now accessible thanks to a new elevator, and are able to take

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place both in-person with appropriate safety measures in place and virtually. **Hill & Lyng: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 13-0.**

7. Next SMAC Meeting: Friday, June 4, 2021, 8am-9:30am

8. Upcoming Events:

a. Virtual Older Michiganiaan Day, 5/12/2021, 10am-11:30am

b. Zoom 101 with Willard Library, 5/19, noon

c. Professionals in Aging: The Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Kelly Jonkers, 5/27, 8:30am

9. Adjourned at 9:52am

Respectfully submitted, Kate Turner

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