

**Senior Millage Allocation Committee**  
**EastEnd Studio & Galley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Ballroom**  
**143 W Michigan Avenue, Marshall, MI 49068**  
**Friday, June 4, 2021 8:00am – 9:30am**

**MINUTES**

---

**1. Call to Order at 8:06am**

- a. **Attending:** Richard Lindsey, Bob Lyng, Tom Hunsdorfer, Michelle Hill, Jim Powers, Yvonne Chapman, Commissioner Gary Tompkins, Diane Peters, Dominic Oo, Art Kale, Willie Tabb, Jill Booth (Otsego County, MI via Zoom, left at 9am)
- b. **Excused:** Commissioner Jake Smith

**2. Consent: Approval of Agenda and May 7, 2021 Minutes**

- a. Motion to accept agenda and minutes: **Lindsey & Lyng: Motion, Second. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.**

**3. Introductions and Citizen's Comments**

- a. **Staff:** Manager Helen Guzzo, Specialist Kate Turner, and Administrative Assistant Rebecca de Finta
- b. **Introductions:** Jen Bomba, Community Development Director, Calhoun County (via Zoom); Brad Wilcox, Assistant Administrator, Calhoun County; Kitty Knoll, Manager, Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center; Susan VanderWeide, Program & Clinical Manager, Senior Health Partners; Jack Reed, Chair, Heritage Commons Steering Committee; Vicki Lopp, Heritage Commons Steering Committee; Jennifer Conley-Darling, owner, EastEnd Studio & Gallery; Joe Bonato, Heritage Commons Steering Committee; Bishop Dr. Tino Smith, CEO, Kingdom Builders; Carl Gibson, community volunteer; Rodna Stealy, Heritage Commons Steering Committee; Karla Fales, CEO, CareWell Services; Luann Sommers, Executive Director, Forks Senior Center; Marc Stanley, Executive Director, Southeastern Resolution Dispute Services; Dawn Worthington, owner, Dreamfield Acres Event Barn; Jill Simpson, Heritage Commons Steering Committee; Tony Rinaldo, Heritage Commons supporter; Joni Ordanello, Southeastern Resolution Dispute Services
- c. **Citizen's Comments:**
  - i. Jack Reed, Chair of the Heritage Commons Steering Committee: Heritage Commons has reopened in-person programming at the Marshall United Methodist Church until the new space is fully renovated; thanked the committee for considering the renovation proposal.
  - ii. Joe Bonato, Heritage Commons Steering Committee: finding a permanent space for the Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center has been a long time coming, and he is very excited about the renovation of the old Goodwill space.

**Calhoun County Senior Services**

*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, dignity, and independence*

- iii. Jill Simpson: lots of excitement about Heritage Commons reopening at the Marshall United Methodist Church, but the members really look forward to having their own space.
- iv. Rodna Stealy: was part of the effort to launch Heritage Commons when she worked for Calhoun County Senior Services with former director Carl Gibson; she is really looking forward to finding a permanent space that allows room to grow for years to come.

#### **4. Budget & Manager's Report**

Manager Helen Guzzo reviewed her funding recommendations as written in her report, briefly spoke about the future awarding of the Joanne Konkle award to Linda Grap and explained her future proposal to move \$25,000 of unobligated contractual spending to the mini-grant budget. SMAC will need to approve this reallocation of funds at a future meeting for recommendation of approval to the Board of Commissioners.

#### **5. Appeal of the Senior Strategic Projects RFP Subcommittee Recommendation to not invite the proposal to the presentation portion of the process because the Subcommittee did not see a need for the service. \$46,989 to expand Eldercare Mediation Services into Calhoun County From Southeastern Dispute Resolution Services**

**Presenters:**

**Marc Stanley, Executive Director, Southeastern Dispute Resolution Services (SEDRS)**

**Joni Ordanello, Coordinator, Behavioral Health Independent Facilitation, SEDRS & Partner, Next Steps Law Firm**

Executive Director Marc Stanley has been with Southeastern Resolution Dispute Services for eighteen years and has recently been assigned Calhoun County, in addition to Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, and Monroe counties. Calhoun County was formerly covered by Gryphon Place. SERDS offers a neutral third party to help proactively smooth out possible family issues or conflict and is starting a domestic issues program with Calhoun County Circuit Court in July. The requested funding would help SERDS expand its reach to Calhoun County, and once programming is established, it will be sustainable on its own, one of those programs being Elder Care Mediation. After hearing Stanley's presentation, the committee reaffirmed the subcommittee's decision to not award funding in this round of Senior Strategic Projects.

#### **6. Old Business**

**Funding Recommendation from the Senior Strategic Projects RFP Review Subcommittee**

**Heritage Commons Renovations                      \$125,000 with \$50,000 match challenge**

**Presenters:**

**Karla Fales, CEO, CareWell Services Southwest**

**Jack Reed, Chair, Heritage Commons Sr. Enrichment Center Steering Committee**

CEO Karla Fales explained that CareWell Services is the Area Agency on Aging for Barry and Calhoun counties, and is a 5013c nonprofit. CareWell is tasked with meeting certain guidelines set by the Older

#### **Calhoun County Senior Services**

*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, dignity, and independence*

Michiganians Act, one of which is creating new programming. The initial goal of Heritage Commons was to get things off the ground, and when it is financially and administratively prudent, the steering committee can decide to branch off on its own to become its own entity. The lease could be assumed by a third party. The Oaklawn space on Preston Drive was great and very generous, but quickly became too small. The former Goodwill space has been selected as the permanent location and a ten-year lease signed. Fales shared that Carl Gibson, former director of Calhoun County Senior Services, will be leading the “Grow with Us” fundraising campaign. The fundraising target is \$350,000, which includes renovation, equipment, and furnishings. A decision about what type of kitchen has not been made. CareWell’s Policy Board has approved the spending of up to \$250,000 for the renovations without prior approval. **Peters & Hunsdorfer: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 11-0 with two excused.**

## **7. New Business**

**Mini-Grant Request: Kingdom Builders, Video System for Exercise - \$5,000**

**Dr. Tino Smith, Kingdom Builders International**

Dr. Tino Smith purchased the former Southeastern Junior High School and has been working to renovate the building to become a community focal point for children and seniors. Currently the building operates a food pantry, driver’s training classes, Senior Fit & Fun exercise class, transportation for older adults to run errands, and Senior Health Partners is hoping to start a tai chi class soon. Kingdom Builders already has the software for the video system that they use in youth programming, this funding would be for senior-specific programming that could be done while seated. **Kale & Lindsey: Motion & Second. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 11-0 with two excused.**

**8. Next SMAC Meeting: Friday, July 9, 2021, 8am-9:30am (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday due to July 4<sup>th</sup>), tentatively in the basement of the Toeller Building in Battle Creek.**

**9. Adjournment at 9:46am.**

Respectfully submitted, Kate Turner

### **Calhoun County Senior Services**

**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, dignity, and independence*