

SENIOR MILLAGE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Friday, March 3, 2023

8:00am-9:30am, In-Person

Marshall County Building, Garden Level Conference Room

315 W. Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call at 8:00am

Attending: Tom Hunsdorfer, Tom Tarkiewicz, Diane Peters, Bob Lyng, Isabell Nazar, Shirley Tuggle, Diane Thompson, Michelle Hill, Jim Powers, Dominic Oo (8:11)

Excused: Willie Tabb (joined the meeting by zoom), Bobbie Smith

2. Approval of Agenda and February 3, 2023, Minutes

Action: Voice Vote

a) Motion to accept agenda

Motion by Nazar & support by Lyng. Voice vote. Motion carried, 10-0 with two excused.

Motion to accept February 3, 2023, Minutes

Motion by Tarkiewicz & support by Lyng. Voice vote. Motion carried, 10-0 with two excused.

3. Introductions and Citizen's Comments

a) **Staff:** Manager Helen Guzzo; Specialist Rebecca de Finta; Administrative Assistant Teri Zadigian, Intern McKayla Byrd.

b) **Introductions:** Rod Auton, Administrator, Albion Health Care Alliance; Mike Regner, Volunteer, St. Thomas Breakfast Program; Luann Sommers, Forks Senior Center; Anne Clark, Senior Health Partners; Jen Bomba, Director, Community Development; Chuck Asher, appointed to the City of Battle Creek Human Relations Board, the Battle Creek's Public Transportation Local Advisory Committee, and applied for the vacant SMAC Member position.

c) **Citizen's Comments:**

Luann Sommers stated: the Euchre tournament at Fork Senior Center is cancelled tonight due to the weather and rescheduled to March 24th. Luann passed out the newsletters from Heritage Commons and Fork Senior Center for everyone to view.

4. New SMAC Member Interviews

Chuck Asher, Battle Creek

Action: Voice Votes

Chuck has spent 38 years in Public Service and Safety in the City of Battle Creek. When he retired from the Battle Creek Fire Department, he started working for Community Actions delivering Meals on Wheels in Branch County. He managed Transportation and the housing programs. When he left Community Action, Chuck was the Chief Operations Officer and Community Action was serving 5,000 seniors a month in eight counties. Chuck believes that you cannot teach passion and that people that have passion are the ones succeeding in making a difference every day. He retired from Community Action in December 2022, and still has that passion for serving older adults. Chuck happy to have an opportunity to become a member of SMAC, and I have a passion for senior services.

Tom Tarkiewicz asked: How will you deal with items that come from Community Actions? Mr. Asher responded: Though I am partial to Community Action, my duty would be to the seniors of Calhoun County, and I would not show Community Action any favoritism.

Bob Lyng asked: Do you leave the state for any length of time during the winter? Mr. Asher commented, No.

Tom Hunsdorfer asked: What do you see are emerging issues for seniors in the county that SMAC should be aware of? Mr. Asher replied, we need to figure out the fare for senior's transportation. I believe it should be the same county wide and I also believe if you do not have the funds, that you should still be allowed to ride. How do we provide more service for minor home repair for seniors? I feel the volume of senior needing more help over the next few years is going to be high.

Motion by Hill & supported by Oo. Voice vote. Motion carried, 10-0 with two excused.

5. Special Presentation: Transportation Needs & Food Insecurity Among Older Adults in the Greater Albion Area; Rod Auton, Administrator, Albion Health Care Alliance

Over the past year, staff at the Albion Health Care Alliance (AHCA) have had the opportunity to deliver food commodity boxes to older adult residents living at Peabody and Mathers Apartments in Albion. The monthly distributions have been coordinated with Community Action who provide the food and AHCA staff do the delivery. The work the we did would not have been possible without the generous financial support of Calhoun County Senior Millage dollars.

Community Action does an excellent job delivering prepared boxes of food to the apartments but have no means of distributin the boxes to residents living in the building. AHCA staff meet Community Action staff at the building on days for distribution and ensure the residents who are signed up for food commodities receive them. In addition, while we encounter the various residents at their apartments, AHCA staff do simple assessments to determine if residents may have other support needs.

The Food Commodities that AHCA supports is a needs-based program that targets at-risk older adults in Albion. Over the past year, we have had opportunity to hear stories from residents receiving commodities at Peabody and Mathers that reinforce how commodities help address basic nutritional needs for these older adults. Albion Health Care Alliance believes in the value to providing food commodities to these area residents and would like to continue serving them in this manner. AHCA is going to start coordinating commodities delivery in Homer at Barneyville Apartment and is working with Community Action to start delivery of food boxes to older adults and people with disabilities without transportation to the the Community Table food box distribution. The total amount of our funding request is \$5,000.

6. Budget & Managers Report

Helen Guzzo

a) Manager's Report

I recommend approval of the edits to the Bylaws to specify one-year term limits for the chair and vice chair and to include the process for filling vacant seats on the committee. The red lined version of the proposed Bylaw changes was presented at the Feb. 3, 2023, meeting and then were emailed to members on Feb. 14, 2023. Bylaw revisions must be approved by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the membership which at this time is 12, so the vote must be 9 or more to approve sending the changes to the Board of Commission.

SMAC created the Joanne Konkle award to honor a dedicated long-term member when she had to step down from service because of health concerns. Senior Services will publicize the request for nominations and a SMAC Subcommittee will select the awardees. Art Kale has asked to serve on the selection committee. I recommend approval. The budget impact is low, and the programmatic impact is high.

7. New Business

Action: Voice Votes

a) Adopt By-Law Revisions – Red Line Version presented last month

Motion to table until the April 14 meeting. Motion by Tuggle & Support by Nazar.

Questions about the number of SMAC members specified in the bylaws and giving flexibility if there are vacancies.

b) Renew SMAC memberships for three years, term ends 4/30/23,

Recommendations to go to the March 16 Board of Commissioners Meeting

1. Isabell Nazar, Homer, started 12/1/2022

Motion by Tarkiewicz & support by Tuggle. Voice vote. Motion carried, 10-0 with two excused.

2. Diane Peters, Albion/Marshall, started 2/1/2019

Motion by Hill & support by Thompson. Voice vote. Motion carried, 10-0 with two excused.

3. Tom Hunsdorfer, Albion, started 10/1/2017

Motion by Tuggle & support by Lyng. Voice vote. Motion carried, 10-0 with two excused.

4. Dominic Oo, Battle Creek, started 5/1/2021

Motion by Nazar & support by Lyng. Voice vote. Motion carried, 10-0 with two excused.

- c) Approve 2023 Joanne Konkle Life-Time Achievement in Senior Services Awards
Motion by Powers & support by Oo. Voice vote. Motion carried, 10-0 with two excused.

- d) Mini-Grant Request: Commodity Delivery in Albion & Homer - \$5,000
Rod Auton, Administrator, Albion Health Care Alliance
Motion by Lyng & support by Tuggle. Roll call vote. Motion carried, 10-0 with two excused

- e) Mini-Grant Request: St. Thomas Saturday Breakfast Program - \$5,000
Mike Regner, Volunteer, St. Thomas Breakfast Program
Motion by Tarkiewicz & support by Oo. Roll call vote. Motion carried, 10-0 with two excused.

- f) Mini-Grant Request: Plumbing repair to the spa tub - \$5,000.00
Discussion of SMAC not liking being asked to approve maintenance requests for building repairs. Request was for \$4,973.33, motion amended to increase the amount to \$5,000 by Peters, seconded by Tuggle.
Motion by Thompson & support by Tuggle. Roll call vote. Motion carried, 8-2 with two excused.

8. SMAC Member comments

Michelle Hill stated that she purchased her 92-year-old mother a membership along with a buddy pass to Heritage Commons and there were 32 seniors that participated in the Ukulele assembly. She is really excited to see the excellent and creative programming happening at Heritage Commons.

9. Next SMAC Meeting: Friday, April 14, 2023, 8am-9:30am, Marshall County Building

10. Adjourned at 9:54

Respectfully submitted, Teri Zadigian.