

SENIOR MILLAGE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Friday, April 14, 2023

8:00am-10:00am, In-Person

Marshall County Building, Garden Level Conference Room

315 W. Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call at 8:01am

Attending: Tom Hunsdorfer, Tom Tarkiewicz, Diane Peters, Bob Lyng, Isabell Nazar, Shirley Tuggle, Diane Thompson, Michelle Hill, Jim Powers (8:03), Bobbie Smith (8:02), Dominic Oo, Chuck Asher

Excused: Willie Tabb (joined the meeting by zoom)

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

Action: Voice Vote

a) Motion to accept agenda

Motion by Lyng & support by Oo. Voice vote. Motion carried, 12-0 with one excused.

Motion to accept March 3, 2023, Minutes

Motion by Tuggle & support by Tarkiewicz. Voice vote. Motion carried, 12-0 with one 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:** Whitney Wardell, Interim CEO, Neighborhoods, Inc.; Luann Sommers, Forks Senior Center; Anne Clark, Senior Health Partners; Jen Bomba, Director, Community Development; Jim Dyer, Corporate Counsel, County Administration; Sherri Mason, Purchasing/County Administration Services; Bill Annis, Treasurer, Marshall Mobile Meals; Carolyn Hurteau, Board Member, Swinging at the Shell; Patty Parker, Board Chair, Marshall Area Farmers Market.

c) **Citizen's Comments:** Luann Sommers shared the April newsletters for the Forks Senior Center in Albion and Heritage Commons Senior Enrichment Center in Marshall.

4. Special Presentation: Study of Homelessness Among Older Adults in Calhoun County

Whitney Wardell, Interim CEO, Neighborhoods, Inc.

In 2022 Health Needs Assessment, roughly 25% of the population in Calhoun County is over 60 years old and are currently living below the poverty line. Based on the data collected by Calhoun County

Senior Services, older men are more likely to experience homelessness than older women and two-thirds of older adults experiencing homelessness have a disability. The townships with the largest percentage of seniors (aged 60+) are Albion Township and Leroy Township. Financial constraints and lack of funding to assist with monthly rent/security deposit assistance has been cited as a top factor impacting housing instability and causing homelessness. Clients interviewed recommended, resources provided by the Senior Millage provide direct financial assistance to aid in monthly housing payments (rent, mortgage, utilities, insurances, etc.). Other top priorities include financing options to assist with home repairs and accessibility modifications. Recommendations for future funding opportunities include the creation of a competitive funding opportunity for local area agencies to create a Community Health Case Manager and the creation of a rental assistance/security deposit assistance fund.

5. Staff Reports:

- a. Manager's & Budget Report Helen Guzzo
Recommendation to keep the existing nomination process and approval of edits to the Bylaws to specify one year term limits for the chair and vice chair. The County Administration recommends that SMAC adopt a policy that Senior Millage will not support the capital costs of recreational facilities such as pickle ball courts unless they directly support serving older adults, age 60 and over. Form a review subcommittee for the 2023 Joanne Knokle Senior Services Award, which involves attending one meeting and helping select among the nominees for 2023.

- b. May 18 Senior Expo, Kellogg Arena Rebecca de Finta
Senior Services will be meeting at Kellogg Arena with vendors on April 25th to discuss final setup and location of vendors. Volunteer signup sheets will be emailed to everyone for, date, time, and location.

6. Old Business

Action: Voice Vote

- a. By-Law Revisions (will go to the Board of Commission on May 18)
Motion by Nazar & support by Asher. Voice Vote. All approved.

7. New Business

Action: Roll Call/Voice Votes

- a) Adoption of policy: Senior Millage will not support the capital costs of projects unless the project directly supports serving older adults, age 60 and over. This language is based on the intent of the authorizing language for Senior Millage.
Motion by Powers & support by Oo. Voice Vote. All approved.

- b) SMAC Senior Center Representation
 - 1. Forks Senior Center in Albion: Willie Tabb shared with Isabell Nazar

Appoint Willie Tabb & Isabell Nazar to Forks Senior Center Advisory Committee, with no term limits.

Motion by Tuggle & support by Oo. Voice Vote. All approved.

2. Heritage Commons Sr. Enrichment Center, Marshall: Diane Peters
Appoint Diane Peters to Heritage Commons Advisory Committee, with no term limits.
Motion by Powers & support by Tarkiewicz. Voice Vote. All approved.

c) Form a review subcommittee for the 2023 Joanne Konkle Senior Services Award
Michelle Hill, Bobbie Smith, and Chuck Asher, volunteered to be the subcommittee for the 2023 Joanne Konkle Senior Services Award. There are two nominees for the volunteer award and one for the professional award.

d) Mini-Grant Request: *Support for Marshall Mobile Meals* - \$5,000

Bill Annis, Treasurer, Marshall Mobile Meals

Motion by Lyng & support by Thompson. Roll call vote. Motion carried, 12-0 with one excused.

e) Mini-Grant Request: *Swinging at the Shell*, Albion Concert Music Series - \$5,000

Carolyn Hurteau, Board Member, *Swinging at the Shell*

Motion by Powers & support by Lyng. Roll call vote. Motion carried, 12-0 with one excused.

f) Mini-Grant Request: City of Marshall, Farmers Market Senior Bingo Cards/Market Bucks - \$5,000

Patty Parker, Board Chair, Marshall Area Farmers Market

Motion by Lyng & support by Smith. Roll call vote. Motion carried, 12-0 with one excused.

8. SMAC Member comments

Tom Tarkiewicz stated: He has heard that a county wide transit system will take place, if so, should SMAC Committee support the decision and what would be the role of Community Action Transportation, which SMAC currently helps fund. Helen Guzzo stated: Calhoun County staff recommended, Board of Commissioner's approve and create the Transit Authority of Calhoun County will be on the Commission's May 4th, 2023, Agenda. Townships and Cities have until June 9, 2023, to opt in or opt out of the county wide transit system. No further information will be available until information is received from communities within the county.

9. Next SMAC Meeting: Friday, May 5, 2023, 8am-9:30am, Marshall County Building

10. Adjourned at 10:09

Respectfully submitted, Teri Zadigian.