

City of Minneapolis
Senior Citizen Advisory Committee

March 10, 2011

Minutes

Patrick Rowan opened the meeting at 1:00 pm in room 333 City Hall.
Committee has quorum with 18 of its 22 members present.

Present

Lisa Abicht-Swensen, James Adams, Frank Broderick, Allen Brookins-Brown, Rita Deyo, Terry Diebold, Jean Greener, Jeanne Hanson, Fay Harrison, Marci Holley Bartlett, Marilyn Holm, Thomas Leavey, Georgia Marinkov-Omorean, Roland Minda, Herb Nelson, Ray Olson, Dorothy Robinson, Patrick Rowan

MDHFS Staff

Ruth Kildow, Kim Stringfellow

NCR Staff

Billie Imhoede

Guests

Council Member Hofstede

Absent

Dr. Lawrence Kerzner

Excused Absence

Rosemarie "Sully" Gilbert, Elana Gravitz, Joanna Lees

Minutes and Agenda

February 10, 2011 minutes and March 10, 2011 agenda were both approved unanimously.

Council Member Diane Hofstede, Ward 3

Council Member Hofstede discussed with the committee on how they can work together to find solutions and maintain the city's good work, especially with a reduction to senior services and more emphasis on youth and youth violence. Suggestions from SCAC include improvement and reinstallation of red light photo opportunities; and sustainable fix of potholes by using new technology. While the 2011 budget includes an increase in funds to fix streets, it will ultimately depend on local government aid (LGA) funding. Other suggestions include senior housing to allow for aging in place; required voter id; report to 311 properties that do not have railings; attach phone # "bumper sticker" to public garbage containers to report when they are full; instead of the mayor meeting with one person at a time at his open house, he should meet with everyone as a group. Council Member Hofstede suggested SCAC can help City Council by emphasizing priorities, weigh-in and attend meetings, and getting issues on the agenda and address council through Gretchen Musicant and Don Samuels. There is continued concern regarding Target Center cost to Minneapolis and how it should be state-owned with costs being fairly distributed to all. Until then, the city has an agreement to maintain and will continue to make improvements.

Committee Reports

Health – Lisa Abicht-Swensen

- As provided by Tunheim Partners, a Long Term Care Imperative packet was distributed highlighting topics around care and service.
- We should be questioning legislature about what's happening. Let Lisa know if you are interested in working with her on an on-going basis in identifying resources to bring to the committee.
- Senior Linkage Line is available to answer questions including those about Medicare and Medicare Part D.

Legislative – Jean Greener

- There is a tax credit for family caregivers.
- Allowable rates paid for seniors, rate increase on elderly waivers would help poorest seniors. Jean will send more information and website to Kim to forward to committee members.
- No need to remember a bill #, just tell them what you care about, what the issues are.
- Meals on Wheels serve 1.2 million/year in the Twin Cities area. 60% are over age 85, and more than 50% of those

Senior Ombudsman – Ruth Kildow

- Clarissa Walker, former member of SCAC, passed away. Program at Sabathani will be held on March 14 from 5:00-6:00 pm.
- CDBG funds are very light. There are three Living at Home Block Nurse Programs which helps fund seniors helping other seniors to stay in their homes. Sites are Nokomis, Southeast and Longfellow/Seward. CDBG makes sure people served represent all cultures.
- Ruth continues to receive calls regarding need for snow removal, especially when the city plows after they have already removed snow on their property.
- Want to know how much federal and state funds are received by City of Minneapolis for seniors. Jean Greener reminded the committee this is a question that SCAC has asked in years past. What is the city doing and what are other non-profits, churches and organizations doing? What does the city allocate and how does it compare to other allocations. These are quality of life issues. Jean Greener asked members to keep track of their ideas.

Old/New Business

1. Subcommittees and Roles.
 - History of SCAC subcommittees. In 2006 subcommittees were formed for Transportation, Affordable Housing and Community and Advocacy. They were not intended to be on-going, but to gather information, report to the full committee, and make recommendations to city council and state.
 - Subcommittee suggestions are Housing, Transportation, Health and Safety, and Legislative.
 - SCAC Chair to name the subcommittees and appoint members to serve.
 - Top issues to address include home and community-based services.
 - Georgia Marinkov-Omorean wants to know what senior issues from Sabathani can SCAC deal with. She will provide their newsletter to committee. Sabathani will be hosting an annual district inclusive legislative update, which is being set up now. Legislature wants to hear from constituents. There will be lots of community engagement type forums.
 - Ruth Kildow stated MAAA is concerned about older people employed through the senior aide program. Also, MDHFS has not completed their review of *Choosing Home Care-Hospice Providers* by MVNA, which still needs to go to council.
 - Chair nomination. Jean and Lisa to move committees in the short term, and leave door open to add more.
Legislative Committee: Jean Greener, Frank Broderick, Allen Brookins Brown, Herb Nelson, Raymond Olson, Patrick Rowan.
Healthy and Safety Committee: Lisa Abicht-Swensen, Roland Minda, Terry Diebold, Jeanne Hanson.
2. City's policy on traffic lights will be moved to the beginning of the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Next Meeting

April 14, 2011, 1:00-2:30 pm, 333 City Hall

Minutes submitted by Kim Stringfellow and reviewed by Patrick Rowan, Marci Holley Bartlett and Ruth Kildow.