

# Senior Millage Allocation Committee (SMAC)

Friday April 1, 2016 8:00 a.m.

Calhoun County Garden Level Conference Room

315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

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## MINUTES

**Call to Order/Roll Call: Jim Haadsma at 8:05 a.m. and Roll Called**

**Attending: Rod Auton, Mike Bearman, Jim Haadsma, Dianne (Willy) Kalnins, Joanne Konkle, Ralph Moore, Jim Powers, and Willie Tabb (via video conference on Skype)**

**Absent Excused: Jill Booth, Art Kale, Carla Reynolds and Teresa Schell**

**County Personal:** Carl Gibson, Senior Services Director and staff, Rodna Stealy and Lora Stevens; Richard Lindsey, Corporate Counsel.

**Visitors:** Linda Grap, Senior Health Partners; Luann Sommers, Reg. 3B Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

**March Agenda – Konkle and Moore:** Motion, Second and Approved - *Motion Carried*

**Minutes for March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Kalnins and Auton:** Motion, Second and Approved - *Motion Carried*

### **Citizens Time:**

**Luanne Sommers** – personal interest story. The FSC was involved with a blind Veteran that came to cancel his meals. He had been kicked out of his house by his wife that has Alzheimer's. The wife had her daughters with her and he had no place to go. Sommers contacted the VA and they stepped in. They were going to take him to a VA home or hotel until they could get him in a safe place to live. We do make a difference in people's lives, what we do is very important and to remember that.

**Lora Stevens** – personal interest story. I helped an elderly man into his van during the worst part of Thursdays rain and wind storm. He was in a power chair and we had to get it into his van without a lift or proper equipment to get the power chair in. 3 of his vans windows had plastic over them as the windows didn't work or were broken. He used two 2x6 pieces of lumber to drive it up into the side of the van. It was a major struggle but I did get him into the van, chair and all, wet but safe. We do make a difference even when they think they could do something without help.

### **Report – Contract Spending:**

- ✓ 2016 first report – Allocated \$2,424,559: spent thru feb \$256,543
- ✓ Fund balance committee will be set up soon

**Motion to accept Budget Reports - Bearman and Moore:** Motion, Second and Approved – *Motion Carried*

### **Old Business:**

- ✓ **Forks Senior Center (FSC)**
  - Minutes from FSC strategic planning meeting were handed out
  - Powers reported – positive attitude; funders were absent from meeting; FSC is very valuable to the people of Albion
  - Sommers discussed the possibility of the Marshal Senior Center working with FSC to share funding and staff
  - She will set up another strategic plan meeting within the next few weeks
  - Albion County Building has open space. Other public agencies are considering rent space there which could limit the FSC from growing and more people would be allowed into the building, i.e. sharing bathroom and parking lots.

- ✓ **Senior Fair**
  - April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Marshall Middle School Gymnasium, 10:00am to 1:30pm
  - 84 Vendors registered, we are at capacity
  - Committee set-up is Wed at 2:30pm. other vendors Thursday morning at 8:30am
  - Received a \$600.00 grant from Community Foundation– Rental of equipment and bldg.
  - Retired Judge Philip Harder and County Prosecutor David Gilbert will give presentations in the cafeteria area and Oaklawn scheduled several demonstrations during the day in the south foyer off of the gym.
- ✓ **Triangle Mobile Home Park** – Has new owners and Lindsey stated that they paid their taxes and OK for one more year. Treasurer’s office worked hard to have many organizations set-up to help residents if they were evicted. Many seniors are living there. Triangle Park, along with 2 other trailer parks with seniors paid their taxes.

**New Business:**

- ✓ **Marshall Activity Center:**
  - Gibson requested putting aside the Casino / in lieu of taxes money (~\$59,000 yearly) for senior centers in Calhoun County. In the past it went into the Millage’s general fund.

**Motion to place Casino in lieu of taxes money apart for Senior Centers in Calhoun County - Bearman and Kalnins:** Motion, Second and Approved – *Motion Carried*
- ✓ **Centenarian Luncheon:**
  - May 24 to coincide with Older American Month (May) and Older Michigianians day – Noon at Schuler’s in Marshall.
  - 50 invitations will go out next week to Centenarians
  - Invitations to SMAC members in their folders

- ✓ **Older American Month Proclamation:**

- Discussion

**Motion to send Older Americans Month Annual Proclamation sent to the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners – Bearman and Konkle:** Motion, Second and Approved – *Motion Carried*

- ✓ **Media Ads/Articles:**

- Media Survey handed out to SMAC to check which media is beneficial and that they see our senior ads and articles
- Recommendations for other media sources that we don’t currently advertise in
  - Bearman – swinging at the shell donor as that group is older and they discussed their donors over the PA at every event
  - Haadsma – Rotary news and going to the meetings
  - Franke Center programs as we do the Battle Creek Symphony
  - If you send a flyer to the townships, they will send them out in their mail to their residents for little cost

- ✓ **Marshall Activity Center:**

- Discussion – need to develop center.
- Marshall City supports
- Willie Kalnins and Jim Powers will be the support SMAC people

**Motion to move forward and develop a senior center in Marshall – Kalnins and Powers:** Motion, Second and Approved – *Motion Carried*

- ✓ **Home Safety Focus:**

- Grab bars in the bathrooms and fire alarms
- Chore Services will work to install them
- Gibson has discussed this with local fire departments officials
  - Fire Alarms free to townships that don’t get offered free ones
  - Low income home safety focus to include grab bars.

✓ **County Wide Transportation:**

- Discussion that
- there is a growing for all citizens in the County
- Community Action discussed with Gibson that approximately 10 **NO shows** a day. County Administration will work with other communities to determine support for new service. If seniors had to pay a little something that they might call and cancel if they can't make it. After so many **NO shows** they may be restricted from scheduling rides for 30 days.

✓ **Meals on Wheels – Meal Program:**

- Haadsma recently went on a ride and encourage everyone to do the same
- Bearman is scheduled in the near future
- Call Kitty Knoll at SWMi Senior Services at 1-866-200-8877 x#155 to set up a time to ride along and see how much is service helps seniors, not just a meal but companionship

✓ **Cost Sharing – Sharing principles:**

- If seniors invest a little time or money they might appreciate the services available to them
- Our local seniors expect everything for free as we have a millage
- Discussion on Kalamazoo County and their cost sharing services, Kalamazoo County does not have a millage – cultural differences with little expectation of everything free
- Community Action – minor home repair and home heating and CCPHD for eye glasses and hearing have some cost sharing
- Retired or Retiring Baby Boomers population is growing and more services are needed
- Konkle – talked about entitlement and cost sharing – agencies that ask for donations should consistently ask to bring in revenue to help cover costs

✓ **SMAC Membership open position: (Richard Lindsey excused during discussion and member voting)**

- Richard Lindsey submitted an application and expressed his interest as becoming a Marshall area representative. Lindsey has taken a position with Oaklawn Hospital in mid-April as the Executive Director of Development / Community Development and as their Legislative Advocate
- Two other potential candidates for the SMAC vacancy failed to attend today's meeting as planned.

**Motion nominate Richard Lindsey as a SMAC Member to fill a vacant position – Konkle and Auton:** Motion, Second and Approved – *Motion Carried*

**The nomination is forwarded to The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners for adoption.**

**Adjournment at 9:23 a.m. – Powers and Auton:** Motion, Second and Approved - *Motion Carried*

**Next SMAC Board meeting – May 6th, 2016, Friday at 8:00 a.m. at Calhoun County Building Garden Level Conference Room**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Questions regarding the minutes may be answered prior to the next meeting by contacting Calhoun County the Office of Senior Services at 269-781-0846