

Senior Millage Allocation Committee
Friday May 2, 2014 8:00 a.m.
Calhoun County Building – Garden Level Conference Room
315 W Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

MINUTES

Call to Order/Roll Call: Jim Haadsma at 8:06 a.m. and roll call

Roll Call Attending: Rod Auton, Jane Chappell, Shirley Clutter, Kathy-Sue Dunn, Jim Haadsma, Art Kale, Dianne Kalnins, Joanne Konkle, Jim Powers, Ralph Moore, and Drew Walker

Absent Excused: Willie Tabb, Jill Booth,

Staff: Carl Gibson, Rodna Zuck and Lora Stevens

Visitors: Bev Bentley; Amy Rose Wallace, Community Action Agency; Dan Pontius., Senior Services Inc.; Brenda Wallace, Habitat for Humanity; Maureen Reed, Director / Forks Senior Center; John Williams/ Board President for Forks Senior Center.

Agenda – Ralph Moore and JoAnn Konkle: Motion, Second and Approved – *Motion Carried*

Minutes for March, 2014 – Jane Chappell and Ralph Moore: Motion, Second and Approved – *Motion Carried*

Education: Amy Rose Wallace – Community Action (CA)

- A draft MOU prepared by Community Action was handed out and discussed with Board.
- This agreement is to provide ramp construction partnership CA and Habitat of Humanity (HH)
- Currently have 3 people waiting for ramps.
- CA will be spending \$1,000 to \$1,500 less than they are paying now to have ramps built.
- No RFPs will be required. If a project is over \$1,500 then it must be bid out.
- This project will not use federal monies.
- HH will be the ones constructing ramps. All CA contractors are licensed and insured and will only use staff/volunteers that are over 18 and they must be trained.
- This MOU states agreement will be between CA, HH and the home owner; no rental properties will be accepted
- HH is thinking about marking the ramps with a plaque or burning name/ number # into the wood .
- HH will use aluminum for ramps that are not needed for long.
- Home owners that qualify must be 150% below poverty (or below \$16,000 a year) for ramp to be no cost to them. There will be cost-share up to 200% of poverty level.
- Walker asked if there was a large need for ramps and Wallace said very much so. One of the biggest requests is from Seniors. There is no waiting list now, but when seniors start to hear about this there will be more requests.
- Moore– concerned about Liability building these ramps.
- MOU is pending as Richard Lindsey, Corporate Counsel is reviewing it.

Old Business:

- Senior Fair Report
 - 350 Senior attending approx.
 - 75 Vendors, 15 up from last year and turned away a few

- Good committee – set up and take down
- Many comments that it was enjoyable for seniors and informative
- Governmental agencies attending; Clerk, CERT, 911, Nofs, Bolger, Attorney General and some other state officials attended.
- Received \$750.00 grant from Marshall Community Foundation for the fair
- Motion was made to accept this grant

Kalnins and Moore: Motion, Second and Approved – *Motion Carried*

Senior Services Inc. Ben Pontius

- Congregate Meals: 10 meal sites in the County
 - 36,000 meals, 2014 budgeted for Congregate Meals, 34,000 for 2013
 - At the end of April there were 31,000 served, leaving only 5,000 for the rest of the year.
 - Cut back to the program from 5 days a week to 3, Monday Wednesday and Friday this will be starting next week. Even with this change they will need 10,000 meals to finish out this year
 - This rapid increase was not projected or anticipated. The quality of meals has gone up and more people attending to receive them
 - Kalamazoo County suggests a \$3.00 charge Calhoun is \$1.50, should Calhoun's be increased? Staff is encouraged to give seniors the opportunity to donate ... to give what they can.
 - Kalamazoo County and Battle Creek area serve about the same amount of people.
 - This is not a free program, but that is the perspective among seniors that it is.
 - Biggest cost in these programs is staffing, and transportation of the meals is half of that.
 - If 10,000 meals are still needed – Senior Services Inc. will need about \$60,000 more this year.
 - Gibson recommended that the Board take the money that was allocated for Plan B insurance for seniors that was discontinued at the end of April and transfer to the Meals program. (\$45,000 initially)

Powers and Moore: Motion, Second and Approved – *Motion Carried*

Forks Senior Center in Albion/ John Williams board President and Maureen Reed Director

- The leased space that they have with the school will end this summer.
- The Board has viewed space in the Albion County building that will give the center more area.
- Currently paying \$11,000 a year, if they stay it will be going up to \$16,000. The County building is available for \$19,000 a year with more space and a longer lease.
- It is affordable on the budget that the Forks Center currently has for 2014. FSC may need an additional \$4,000 for this next year. Not sure if more fundraisers, memberships and donations will cover the additional cost.
- Fund Balance – \$56,000 ending in 2013 and \$26,000 in 2012. A member donated \$20,000 this year plus had a \$5,000 donation from Region 3B-AAA
- The meal program will also move with the Fork Center, Meals need less space than the County has offered to them at this location. The longer term needs and rent of \$6,000 are issues.
- Question: if FSC moves and the schools are closed will FSC continue with its policy to close? Reed said yes, it would not be safe for the seniors on the road. Pontius reports Kalamazoo County meal program closes when schools close for the same reason.
- Points in favor of relocation
 - New neighborhood might draw more members;
 - One block from trail;
 - Parking more than doubles;
 - County can offer a longer lease where the school can only offer a one year lease as they are not sure if they will be open next year.

- The school has trouble scheduling the common area (gym, maintenance and restroom areas) and they are not maintained well.
- Membership for the Forks is currently 340.
 - \$75.00 is the normal amount
 - Some members need assistant and volunteer to cover their costs
 - Some members are on a payment plan. No one is turned away.
 - They are on the list for 2 months after they have not paid, then removed off list.
 - 340 is a common amount for the forks and doesn't increase or decrease much.
 - There were 3 fundraisers held last year.
 - A New Part time financial person will help increase memberships
- Discussion held on Forks Board meetings policy of not being open to membership. Williams reported they are not open to the public, too much disturbances by the public during these meetings. If a member wants to contact a board member and meet with them that is encouraged. A non-profit consultant advised them that they do not need to be open to the public.
- FSC Board to inform SMAC if they commit to move to Calhoun County Albion Building.

PERS presenting challenges –

County allocated the money to AAA . The low cost qualified bidder was VRI out of Ohio for \$12.00 a month. The contract amount has been \$18.00 a month to Lifespan and CST. Lifespan had created a concern with its clients about using an out of county company, causing them to think responders would be out of area. (The responders will still be our local providers for EMT and transport.) Gibson will be getting this straightened out. More to follow.

Old Business:

May is Older American s Month: Elder Justice Conference in Lansing. Conference was about the vulnerability of older Americans, i.e. seniors and disabled adults.

The month of June celebrates - Older Michigander's Day on June 3rd.

Senior Services Department – Approved part-time position will be changed to a full-time position as Senior Services is growing and we will be able to support additional outreach and education in communities.

9:30 am Adjournment- motion by Walker , supported by Powers.- Adjourned

Next Meeting –June 4, 2014, 8:00 am – Marian E. Burch Adult Day Care (Longer Meeting – tour of facility)

	<p style="text-align: center;">ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Questions regarding the minutes may be answered prior to the next Meeting by contacting the Office of Senior Services at 269-781-0846</p>
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