

**CITY OF WIXOM**  
**SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION MEETING**  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**49015 PONTIAC TRAIL**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

Approved 1/3/17

Chairman Korleski called this meeting of the Senior Citizen Commission to order at 10:01 a.m. with the following individuals in attendance:

COMMISSION: Jean Korleski (Chairman), Shirley Pfeffer, Connie Salvati and Larry Grant

ABSENT: Anna Contreras (Excused) and Stacey Banks (Excused)

STAFF: Tracy McMahan (Senior Coordinator)

PUBLIC: Ken Michlewicz, Del Goodlein, Suzie Bogrow and Marion Belaire (Michigan Veterans Foundation)

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:**

A quorum of the Senior Citizen Commission was present for this meeting.

**CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 SENIOR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION** and seconded by Commissioners Salvati and Pfeffer to approve the September 20, 2016 Senior Commission Meeting Minutes.

**VOTE:**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

An undated, handwritten letter from Commissioner Contreras was read aloud by Chairman Korleski regarding operation of the Senior Center on Fridays and its associated costs.

Commissioner Pfeffer noted that there have been different figures reported for Friday attendance at the Senior Center. She has been keeping track and these are the total number of attendees on Fridays for the entire month:

May (Fridays only)	98
June (Fridays only)	63
July (Fridays only)	62
August (Fridays only)	46
September (Fridays only)	46
October (Fridays only)	48

Chairman Korleski noted that the attendance figures appear to be trending downward since the autumn. Commissioner Pfeffer said that there have been no special events during that period. The seniors will be doing a baked potato event. The potatoes were donated by Mr. Michlewicz and the seniors will bring their own toppings or something to share. They had 16 participants at the last baked potato bar.

Commissioner Grant said that they would be scheduling euchre on the second Friday and pinochle on the fourth Friday. They considered not having a tournament in October since attendance was lower. There were 6-7 people interested on the day there was not a tournament. He does not want to be responsible for every second Friday and will be alternating with someone else. The holidays will make it difficult to do a tournament so they will resume euchre on the second Friday in January. Commissioner Salvati suggested notifying seniors via email about the tournaments and potato event. Ms. McMahan will handle this. Tuesday and Thursday are light days and there has been a lot more scheduling of major parties on those days in order to fill in. Monday and Wednesday are mahjong and games. Commissioner Grant would like to see the Senior Center stay open for the foreseeable future. If it becomes too much of a burden due to staffing and room rental, it will become the City's call.

Commissioner Pfeffer noted that the newsletter has euchre scheduled for the second Friday in December; however, they can only have the room during a certain time. Ms. McMahan said that euchre could be done in the morning. She also noted that the police are doing a training for two days and will be in the City Hall room on Friday. Chairman Korleski suggested sending out an email about open euchre being held from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. that day. Ms. McMahan said that it is already on the calendar.

Chairman Korleski thinks Friday hours at the Senior Center is budgeted for next calendar year. Ms. McMahan does not know. Commissioner Salvati said she likes to come to scheduled things on Friday; i.e., for tournaments but is also here Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Chairman Korleski agrees with Commissioner Salvati since she too comes for euchre tournaments and thinks they are wonderful. If monies are tight, she would like to look at opening on Fridays for a portion of the year as an alternative to being closed completely on Fridays. If that is the case, she would look first to the months with the heaviest attendance and stay open Fridays during those months.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Ken Michlewicz follows City Council minutes and said that Friday hours for the Senior Center were approved for the calendar year 2017.

Ms. Belaire is part of the Wixom VFW. She thanked Commissioner Pfeffer for inviting her to today's meeting. She knows that the Senior Commission is considering fundraising/donation possibilities for the senior group to participate in. Her organization is called Michigan Veterans Foundation Detroit Center and is located in the Cass Corridor, about two blocks east of the Masonic Temple. It previously housed 100 homeless vets. They offer transitional housing and provide the vets with three meals per day, offer computer classes and medical care coordinated through Eastern Michigan University. They also provide employment assistance through Michigan Works. Once employed, they move out to government subsidized housing or donated housing. She serves on the Board of this organization and sees where the money goes. Mitch Albom is a big supporter.

Chairman Korleski asked whether Ms. Belaire's organization aids veterans from the entire state. Ms. Belaire said just those from Detroit proper. Vets from the suburbs are covered through other organizations. Her organization will be moving to Grand River Avenue about 1-1/2 miles from the Motor City Casino. They have an annual 'stand down' event focusing on safe shelter. Last year, they served 400 veterans. People bring donations of personal care items and clothes to be distributed to the vets. Their new facility will have housing for 104 vets with 20 extra in the lobby for overnight stays only.

Ms. Belaire said that her organization has a wish list which includes: new twin sheets, pillow cases, blankets, thermal underwear and socks. Commissioner

Grant noted that his church, the Church of Jesus Christ for Latter Day Saints, has an annual clothing and blanket giveaway which has four locations, one of which is in Detroit. Last year, they received brand new coats in large sizes which might work for her veterans. People in need can come on Friday and use a voucher.

Chairman Korleski solicited ideas for charitable events which the Senior Commission would like to sponsor. Ms. McMahan is accepting donations for Hospitality House's Santa Shop which is done the first week of December. There is an ugly sweater event on December 13<sup>th</sup> which requests a donation of two canned goods. Chairman Korleski asked whether the Commissioners want to donate from the Senior Fund or make a purchase and donate items. Commissioner Pfeffer asked for clarification of what is meant by the Senior Fund. Chairman Korleski said that it is the monies that they as an organization have collected. Commissioner Grant noted that the current balance of that fund is \$1,093. Chairman Korleski noted that they have discussed doing things to benefit the seniors. Commissioner Salvati said that it is a nice idea to give back since so many people donate to the fund.

Mr. Michlewicz noted that the Board for the Milford Senior Center will donate \$2 per person toward an event to decrease the cost of the event for seniors attending it. It is a relatively low cost gesture. Chairman Korleski said that is a good idea for a first quarter event, perhaps for Valentine's Day.

Ms. Belaire said that she has helped vets for years and have had vets here for meals. She thinks they should continue to help them. (This could probably be removed...?) They went to the hospital and met with them. Chairman Korleski asked whether the Commissioners were interested in personally going to Detroit to deliver items donated to the vets. Commissioner Pfeffer said that she would go. Ms. Belaire noted that her organization will be moving to their new location by the end of December. Commissioner Pfeffer wants to support the Detroit vets. Commissioner Grant suggested setting a monetary amount for the donation to the vets. Chairman Korleski likes the idea of donating sheets and blankets. Ms. Belaire suggested having a donation box for sheets, pillow cases, blankets and new thermal underwear in large, extra-large and 2X sizes with a deadline for donations of December 5<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners will deliver the donated items on the afternoon of December 9<sup>th</sup> after euchre or Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Korleski said they would coordinate with Ms. Belaire regarding the delivery date. Ms. McMahan will check with People's Express to

see if they are available that date for the delivery. Chairman Korleski said that money from the Senior Fund could be used for the People's Express delivery if People's Express is unwilling to donate their services. The Commissioners agreed that they would be willing to spend up to \$200 from the Senior Fund for the People's Express delivery of the donated items to the vets. Commissioner Salvati suggested approaching People's Express with the idea that this is a benefit for the veterans and might be a write-off for them. Ms. Bogrow said that the Holiday Inn has a van. She will check with them regarding use of it for the delivery. Commissioner Pfeffer confirmed with Chairman Korleski that people will be individually buying items at their own expense and donating them to the vets.

**MOTION** and seconded by Chairman Korleski and Commissioner Grant to expend up to \$200 from the Senior Fund, if necessary, for the People's Express delivery of donated items (bedding and clothing) to the Michigan Veterans Foundation.

**VOTE:**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**TABLED MOTIONS:**

There were no tabled motions to be discussed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Senior Coordinator Report – Review and File**

Ms. McMahan added a bit of a description of what is occurring with regard to participation for each event. New classes include chair yoga which has been very successful with 27 participants in October. It is held on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. Line dancing is another new class which has been similarly successful with 52 attendees in October. It is held on Thursdays at 11:15 a.m. The cost is \$5 per session for each.

**INFORMATION:**

**1. Wixom Senior Activity Fund Financial Statement**

Commissioner Grant noted that they have continued to do the 50/50 raffle and the White Elephant event. They received \$263 in the last 2

months for a new fund balance of \$1,093.66 with \$200 of that amount now earmarked for the People's Express transportation of the donated items to the Detroit veterans. Chairman Korleski noted that the Senior Activity Fund has more than doubled in the last 6 months. She likes the idea of rewarding event participants by providing a discount on ticket prices. They will do this for the Valentine's Day event.

**MOTION** and seconded by Commissioners Grant and Pfeffer to provide a \$2 per ticket discount to seniors attending the Valentine's Event, with the funding to come from the Wixom Senior Activity Fund.

**VOTE:**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Ken Michlewicz suggested that the Commissioners start thinking about fundraisers for next year, especially a white elephant sale or a Chinese auction, as separate events. He also suggested having a Christmas cookie walk at \$5 per dozen which could be done for Valentine's Day.

**COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Pfeffer noted that the seniors will be singing at the Holiday Markt. She inquired about the time frame for this. Ms. McMahan said that she should check with Ms. Venegas who is in charge of the event.

Chairman Korleski noted that the Friends of the Library will be doing a cookie sale on Friday night during the Holiday Markt. She encouraged everyone to attend and invite others.

The Commissioners agreed on the following meeting dates for the Senior Commission for 2017:

January 3, 2017

March 14, 2017

May 9, 2017

July 11, 2017

September 12, 2017

November 14, 2017

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

Ms. McMahan noted that Ms. Stroup informed her that there are two names to be added to the memorial plaque (Donna Ebaugh and Betty Glassey) and that the money for that would come out of the Senior Activity Fund. Chairman Korleski said that she believes there are some residual monies left in the account held by the plaque engraver. Commissioner Pfeffer will follow up with this.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting of the Senior Citizen Commission was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Fisher  
Recording Secretary