

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The May 20, 2020 meeting of the Advisory Board of Directors of the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging was held via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jon Withers at 1:35 PM. Roll call was taken by Chuck Thompson.

PRESENT: Sarah Apwisch, Lee Austerman, Al Balog, Steve Boland, John Gelvin, George Letts, Ed Stemen, Chuck Thompson, Jon Withers, Jim McTavish (arrived late).

ABSENT: Deb Davis.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Stoll, Executive Director; Kris Butler, Finance Clerk; Ruth Mancina, Marketing Outreach Manager; Nicole Notestine, Residential Services Manager; Amanda Newman, Life Enrichment Coordinator; Robert Tomlison, Three Rivers Commercial; Elena Meadows, Sturgis Journal.

AGENDA:

Mr. Stoll requested a revision to the agenda, adding a tentative plan to restart services. A motion was made by Mr. Letts, supported by Mr. Austerman, to accept the agenda as with the revision to New Business. Motion carried 9-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Stemen, supported by Mr. Letts, to approve the April 2020 minutes as presented. Motion carried 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rivers Enrichment Center Atrium Project – Artificial trees and plants have been delivered and put into the atrium area. Ms. Mancina will add pictures to Face Book page. Residents seem to be enjoying this new feature.

REC Residents are frustrated due to length of the mandated stay at home order. Complaints have been received regarding staff not being available in the office at regular times and residents congregating (playing cards) in the atrium area, some not wearing masks.

Mr. Stemen questioned if there was any word on when stay at home order ends. Mr. Stoll explained that we are all waiting for an update at which time the Board of Commissioners will make decisions for the next steps.

Mr. Thompson asked if there is a resident association. Mr. Stoll explained that monthly meetings have not happened since restrictions have been in place but will start up again as soon as possible.

Ms. Apwisch asked if there is an outdoor space available for residents to gather. Mr. Stoll explained that there is not as of now. The REC Campaign (MEDC) money is available and this project will begin as soon as possible with the assistance of the SJC Parks department.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tentative Plan to Restart Services – Mr. Stoll discussed the hope to begin restarting services by the end of June or early July. This will depend on any restrictions set by the state. Meals are now being delivered twice a week. This will switch to 3 days next week and will be back to 5 days per week as of June 15. Personal Care will continue as is for now with hope to start other In-Home Services mid to late June. When Activities start up again there will most likely be limited group sizes and will require preregistration. A prescreen questionnaire and temperature screenings will be needed as members enter the building. Mr. Stoll gave credit to Ms. Notestine and Ms. Hughes for being proactive in the ordering PPE supplies. Some have also been received from AAA.

PROGRAM REPORT:

Ms. Hughes stated that meals under 3100 per week until people start getting back out. Quarantine boxes received by the state of Michigan has now been delivered. There are 7 boxes remaining and 50 more are expected. Produce boxes will also be coming from the state for those 60 and over with no other requirements. The first shipment of 200 boxes will be coming this week and will continue through October. Reopening plans include sanitizing and disinfecting surfaces every 2 hours where members are congregating.

Ms. Notestine discussed the PPE protocol being used by the individual aide currently providing personal care services. Other aides continue to contact their clients on a regular basis.

Mr. Stoll discussed furloughs of 25 staff which includes those who work reduced hours. A total of 50 staff were furloughed from the county so the majority is from COA. Furloughed staff do qualify for unemployment. There is a genuine concern that staff will not want to come back due to the additional \$600 but this does end July 28.

Mr. Thompson requested a finance report. Ms. Butler agreed to provide a report in June. Mr. Withers shared concern about funding in the next few years after all the money that has been spent during this pandemic, hoping that the revenue stream from REC could assist with limited funding in the future.

Mr. Boland asked about REC occupancy. Ms. Notestine explained that there is a unit available she is working to schedule appointments from the waitlist.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Stemen supported by Mr. Austerman. This motion carried 10-0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Thompson, Secretary