

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The June 16, 2021, meeting of the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging Advisory Board of Directors was held at Rivers Enrichment Center. The meeting was called to order by Deb Davis, at 1:30 PM. Roll call was taken by Jon Withers.

PRESENT: Sarah Apwisch, , Steve Boland Deborah Davis, John Gelvin, George Letts, Jim MacTavish, Kathy Pangle, Lloyd "Ed" Stemen, Jon Withers.

ABSENT: Lee Austerman, Charles Thompson.

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Ms. Pangle with support by Mr. Stemen, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

OTHERS PRESENT: Pam Riley, Executive Director; Katie Hughes, Nutrition Manager; Ruth Mancina, Marketing Outreach Manager; Nicki Notestine, Residential Services Manager; Kris Butler, Finance Clerk; Robert Tomlinson, Three Rivers Commercial.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Letts with support from Mr. Stemen, to approve the May 2021 minutes with no revisions. Motion carried 8-0.

FINANCE REPORT:

Ms. Butler presented the finance report for May 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Withers with support from Ms. Pangle. Motion Carried 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Advisory Board member Terms – The county BOC will be interviewing current members whose terms are expiring in June, as well as other interested parties. Citizen's Interest Forms are available on the county website and a link will be provided on the SJCCOA Facebook page.

NEW BUSINESS:

Advisory Board Minutes PAC Request – A request was made from PAC members to post SJCCOA Advisory Board Meeting Minutes to the SJCCOA website as soon as possible following each meeting. Due to the requirement of the minutes not becoming official until approved by the advisory board, minutes will not be posted until the following month.

PROGRAM REPORT:

Life Enrichment Services – 2 trips are scheduled in July, including a nature walk, dinner at local restaurants, and a pontoon ride. Card players and Painting classes will both be welcomed back in July. The summer picnic is scheduled for August 11 at Covered Bridge Farm.

Residential & In-Home Services – There are now 47 applicants on the apartment waitlist with one vacant unit. Ms. Notestine is waiting on a commitment from the next person on the list and this unit will be reserved. Residents are excited about the garden project and ready to start planting. 13 aides are

currently providing services; 2 are on medical leave. There are 35 members on the waitlist. The search continues for additional aides.

Nutrition Services – 721 congregate meals and just under 9,000 home delivered meals were served in May. Increased activities are contributing to an increase in congregate meals while congregate sites will be officially open on July 6. To-go meals will still be offered. 24-hour reservations are required for congregate meals.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Riley thanked board members for their attendance at the outdoor concerts last month.

The fire suppression system has been repaired and this project came out below the expected cost.

Geek Genius is working on designing a new website platform. This new platform will allow Ms. Mancina to modify as needed and provide ADA access.

Quotes for the pickle ball court concrete are still being sought. Zoning permits will not be sought until there is an estimated time for installation since there is a deadline on these permits.

The garden project is almost complete. The Home Depot Grant was not awarded however our local Home Depot donated the supplies to build the garden beds and local community members have donated the soil and water tote to complete this project.

AAA has released the proposed budget for the 2021-2022 grant year. Ms. Riley is reviewing these awards with Laura Sutter and an official award will be available before September. ARPA funds will also be available soon.

Ms. Davis raised discussion of the suggested 3–5-year plan for another housing project. Ms. Riley has been doing some research on this subject but there is not a specific location in mind as of now. The board discussed several options currently available within the county.

MEMBER'S TIME:

Mr. Gelvin reiterated the need for more senior housing within the county.

Mr. Stemen showed his appreciation for the outdoor concert venue.

Mr. MacTavish discussed the first in-person Kinship Care meeting since the pandemic. These meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00PM. Ms. Riley has been educating the community about this program as she promotes COA services. Mr. Gelvin suggested adding these meetings to the Event Brite platform available online.

Ms. Apwisch updated the board on progress of the current art project. 66 pieces of art have been collected and/or pledged so far, along with some monetary donations, to decorate the Rivers Enrichment Center.

Ms. Davis discussed the need for senior mental health and guardianship resources within the community. Ms. Riley reviewed Friendly Reassurance (SJCCOA) and Elder Abuse (AAA) Programs that are available.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Withers with support from Mr. Boland to adjourn the meeting. This motion carried 8-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 2:39PM.