

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE OLDER ADULT NEEDS COMMITTEE
CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, May 20, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M.**

Mayor Pro Tem Casey called the meeting to order at 5:36 P.M.

ROLL CALL: **PRESENT:** Council Member Casey, Council Member Smith, Council Member Thomas, Kim Nice, Debbie Wrobel

ABSENT: Kathy Crawford (Excused), Jay Dooley (Excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Victor Cardenas, City Manager, Jeff Muck, PRCS Director, Kit Kieser, OAS Manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Casey noted that if there were no objections, she would like to postpone item 2 and that items 1, and 3 are virtually the same. There were no objections.

OAN 24-05-19 Moved by Nice, seconded by Smith; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda as amended.

Voice vote on OAN 24-05-19

Yeas: Casey, Smith, Thomas, Nice, and Wrobel

Nays: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

OAN 24-05-20 Moved by Wrobel, seconded by Smith; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the April 29, 2024, meeting minutes.

Voice vote on OAN 24-05-20

Yeas: Casey, Smith, Thomas, Nice, and Wrobel

Nays: None

REMARKS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:

Mayor Pro Tem Casey said that she has prepared notes for the committee in preparation for this meeting. The notes are considered to be a draft of a report on the work that the committee has been doing. She also noted that there was a handout provided by PRCS Director, Jeff Muck, and asked for a description. Kit Kieser, OAS Manager explained that a letter was sent out to everyone who utilized the City's transportation service in the past year to thank them for riding with the city, and to explain the transition to the People's Express. She explained that there was not much feedback about the letter, but in this case, no news is good news. She said that the Community Relations team put together a brochure that contained information regarding the People's Express and that it would be mailed out to all the residents.

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

1. Continuation of Final Committee Report Preparation

The committee was given a draft copy of the final report to Council to review. Mayor Pro Tem Casey explained that the Introduction will be inclusive of who the committee is and why they were formed. She mentioned that the majority of the table of contents were created because of the purpose of the committee by Council Resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Casey asked the committee to look over each section and add comments in regard to what could be added or taken out. The Transportation section was looked at first. Mayor Pro Tem asked OAS Manager, Kit Keiser if updated data could be added to this section regarding the rides provided. Kit responded that she would gather information from the past fiscal year. Council Member Thomas added that somewhere in the brochure it should be mentioned that all matters with transportation will still be handled at a local level. It was discussed to change the recommended section to show that there has been progress and action.

The committee discussed the housing portion of the report draft. Council Member Smith added that he would like some information about the current wait times for Meadowbrook Commons. The committee discussed 'Aging in Place' and described the topic as the main goal. The committee discussed how they are currently communicating with older adults regarding housing. PRCS Director, Jeff Muck added that the housing application for Meadowbrook Commons is now available online, and that they can now ask for more demographic data that will get sorted by the software as an additional resource.

The Senior Center portion of the document was discussed. A big topic of discussion was whether the name "Senior Center" is appropriate. Member Nice recommended that the name "55 and Better" be used, and the majority of the committee agreed that was a better name for an older adult facility. Council Member Thomas asked for clarification on the recommended action to the Council. Mayor Pro Tem Casey explained that they left this recommended action very general as it would have to be at the Council's discretion. She continued by explaining that this topic was mentioned at the Council's goal-setting session, and it did not rank as their top priority for action. Discussion ensued about the feasibility of making progress on this topic, now. Members Nice and Wrobel explained that they can see what types of buildings are being or could be utilized for a center for activities. Council Member Smith added that you need to look at what type of activities you want to have to know what kind of building you need. The committee discussed how to have their senior activities in an ADA-compliant senior building at the lowest cost to the City.

Advocacy was the next topic to review. Mayor Pro Tem Casey said this section would consist of how the committee was born and to better explain the City incentive on advocating for their senior community. It was discussed that the term "boomer generation" may not be appropriate as it could be 'othering' people and is not inclusive. It was suggested by multiple members to have that removed. Discussion ensued about why there is a specific age for older adults mentioned at all. A general idea of why that is

was that age 55 was the age considered for retirement a long time ago. Council Member Thomas added that most people are no longer retiring at that age, and if they are, they are probably still working another job. The discussion on the relevancy of the specific age of 55 continued.

Mayor Pro Tem Casey said there will be a large appendix section so that the documents, resolutions, and data mentioned can be referenced easily.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

The committee discussed upcoming dates to continue working on the final draft report to Council, and continuation of future advocacy. June 3rd and June 12th were decided for upcoming meeting dates, with the possibility of a 3rd date in late June.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Farah Baig, a Novi resident, offered several suggestions regarding the final report including the continuation of using age-friendly language. She discussed the effect of grouping people together by age, and by using terms like the 'silent generation' or 'baby boomers.' Farah added that minorities should continue to be thought about while looking at demographic information. She suggested that the introduction should discuss 'Aging in Place' as that is the entire objective of this specific committee.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 P.M.

Transcribed by Alyssa Craigie, Administrative Assistant

Date approved: June 3rd, 2024