

**City of Minneapolis**  
**Senior Citizen Advisory Committee**

May 12, 2011  
Minutes

Patrick Rowan opened the meeting at 1:04 pm in room 333 City Hall.  
Committee has quorum with 14 of its 22 members present.

**Present**

Lisa Abicht-Swensen, James Adams, Frank Broderick, Allen Brookins-Brown, Rita Deyo, Rosemarie "Sully" Gilbert, Elana Gravitz, Jean Greener, Marilyn Holm, Thomas Leavey, Joanna Lees, Herb Nelson, Ray Olson, Patrick Rowan

**MDHFS Staff**

Ruth Kildow, Becky McIntosh, Kim Stringfellow

**NCR Staff**

None

**Guests**

Council Member Samuels

**Absent**

Dr. Lawrence Kerzner

**Excused Absence**

Terry Diebold, Jeanne Hanson, Fay Harrison, Marci Holley Bartlett, Georgia Marinkov-Omorean, Roland Minda, Dorothy Robinson

**Minutes and Agenda**

April 14, 2011 minutes and May 12, 2011 agenda were both unanimously approved. Discussion included a change to minutes under council member section: "...Minneapolis ranks very hire when compared..." Hire changed to high. With no further discussion, and all approved, the motions carried.

**Council Member Don Samuels, Ward 5**

Council Member Samuels shared interesting Ward 5 statistics with committee members, which includes North Minneapolis has experienced a decrease in its number of violent crimes, a direct result of the East Gateway Partnership which has created safety plans for businesses, mapped crime daily and took a zero-tolerance approach to drug dealing. It also provides in connecting families and relationship with schools and teachers, within a specific geographic zone. African American young men ages 14-25 are the most vulnerable, lacking strong sense of safety and community values, which leads to gangs and negative organized group behavior. Appreciation was given to Medica for their support of the Skyway Senior Center, which is now funded by UCare. Heritage Park, costing \$32 million, will include a memory care center, activity center, senior center, residences. This is the only affordable senior housing with memory care center in the state. Federal cuts to CDBG will impact senior services. SCAC is encouraged to look to city council for support. Neighborhood Community Relations has a plan for public engagement that includes senior citizen engagement. Suggested that committee invite David Rubedor to attend future SCAC meeting. Also think about seniors who are isolated, and how to remove barriers (e.g. language). Forty-four percent of AA young men in Hennepin County will go to jail each year and when released will return to the same home dynamics and relationships. Minneapolis has removed the felony box from its employment application, and wants to give ex-offenders a second chance. Individuals with a felony are disqualified from receiving education scholarships, making it difficult to obtain employment and secure housing. City has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian community, and city council has recently met with Bill Ziegler, Executive Director of Little Earth of United Tribes.

**Action:** Patrick Rowan to invite David Rubedor to future SCAC meeting.

**Old/New Business**

1. Traffic safety and stop lights – Allen Brookins-Brown  
It was motioned to "table this issue until Allen Brookins-Brown can get more information from other cities."  
**Action:** Allen Brookins-Brown will research and bring more information to the committee.
2. Choosing Home Care/Hospice Providers: How Do You Decide? – Becky McIntosh, MDHFS
  - Second draft submitted to committee for review. Changes include adding definitions to skilled nursing and elderly waiver program.

- Would like to present to the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health (PSC&H) on June 8 at 1:30 pm. Once finalized, would like the committee to think about how to make this information available to the community, how to promote.
- Committee to decide if resources should be more comprehensive or more generic.

**Action:** Request members to review over the next week and send comments and ideas to Patrick Rowan.

**Action:** Sully Gilbert will send free hospice care information to Becky McIntosh.

3. April 30 Nokomis Healthy Seniors Clean-A-Thon was a success. There were 56 volunteers and 14 homes were cleaned.
4. St. Cates is doing a paid study for elderly individuals to participate in yoga class. This study will focus on impacts to balance. Contact Sully Gilbert for more information.

## **Committee Reports**

### Health – Lisa Abicht-Swensen

- County Health Rankings
- Committee will review areas of issue within city data and senior specific data to identify focus and determine priorities. Dave Johnson, Epidemiologist, MDHFS will present city data to committee at the June 9 meeting.

### Legislative – Jean Greener

- There was a rally at the State Capital telling lawmakers to “Respect Seniors” by protecting long-term care services from budget cuts. There is a 10% proposed cut to elderly waiver. Everyone was urged to write to their state legislature, state representative, and city council member.
- Affordable Health Care Act. This is a big area of concern, and recommended to look at this as a group; spend one agenda looking at demographics and how it impacts and relates to seniors.

### Senior Ombudsman – Ruth Kildow

- MVNA annual breakfast will be held on June 7 at the Nicollet Island Pavilion from 7:30-8:30 am. Ruth will have a table, and MVNA will have multiple tables. MVNA’s new CEO will be present. There were 600 attendees last year.

## **Announcements**

- Beware of letters seeking funds. Rita Deyo received letters from AARP seeking “payment” for a free service.
- The Mayor’s Property Tax Forum will be held at the Danish American Institute, located at 30 West River Parkway.

Meeting adjourned at 2:34 pm.

## **Next Meeting**

June 9, 2011, 1:00-2:30 pm, 333 City Hall

Minutes submitted by Kim Stringfellow.