

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE OLDER ADULT NEEDS COMMITTEE
CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023, AT 5:30 P.M.**

Member Casey called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M.

ROLL CALL: **PRESENT:** Council Member Casey, Council Member Smith, Council Member Thomas, Kathy Crawford, Jay Dooley, Kim Nice, Debbie Wrobel

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

OAN 23-08-27 Moved by Thomas, seconded by Smith; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda.

Voice vote on OAN 23-08-27 Yeas: Casey, Smith, Thomas, Crawford, Dooley, Nice, Wrobel
Nays: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

OAN 23-08-28 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Thomas; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the August 7, 2023, meeting minutes.

Voice vote on OAN 23-08-28 Yeas: Casey, Smith, Thomas, Crawford, Dooley, Nice, Wrobel
Nays: None

REMARKS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:

Member Casey opened the meeting with a brief overview of the discussion guide for the upcoming focus groups. Director Muck shared that participants were found from within the Recreation and Older Adult Services database, as well as social media posts to generate interest. An important topic the committee wants to explore is how the participants learn about programs including City events and activities, as well as other non-City activities. Where do they receive their information and what are their deciding factors when choosing their activities.

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

The first item of discussion was a review of important information that the committee members had gained from previous presentations regarding the Library, Public Safety, and Area Agency on Aging 1-b. Some of the biggest takeaways were:

Library:

1. The Library has open hours for teens, Seniors want quiet, focused time.
2. Don't discount the tech abilities of the Older Adult community. Many are more tech savvy than we think, given the abundance of 50+ residents using eBooks.
3. Provide tech support for those who want/need them.

4. More comfortable gathering spaces.
5. Library programs may be geared toward Older adults but are open to all ages.
6. Work towards a multi-generational arena. Work with Senior Services and Parks to program.
7. Lending Library. Look into expanding service or add a small library to different venues.
8. Book discussion groups. Offer more groups to discuss books, current events, arts & crafts, cultural awareness programs. More options to gather and socialize.
9. "People own the program". Have volunteer coordinators, would allow seniors to drive programming, offer opportunities to lead discussions and teach classes.
10. Large print books are popular at the Library. Use this when looking at Engage and other advertising. Use larger fonts, different colors that make things easier to read.
11. Constantly evaluate goals and "needs". Example: the need for tech support may diminish as the "boomer" generation continues to age.
12. Library is acting as a de-facto community center.

Public Safety & Code Compliance:

1. Home/Safety inspections and assistance.
 - a. Fall prevention (trip hazards, grab bars, etc.)
 - b. Smoke detector checks and installation
 - c. Emergency access lock boxes
 - d. File of life
 - e. Offer assistance for dryer vent cleaning?
2. What is the best way to communicate these programs?
3. Code Compliance assistance program. How can we help with aging in place?
4. Neighborhood issues: sidewalk hazards, steps, lawn & snow services
5. Advice on safety devices such as smart watches or alert necklaces.
6. Offer smart phone training to link "Siri" and "Alexa" for emergency assistance.
7. Encourage Public Safety to roll out/advertise to HOAs ways to assist their older residents.

Area Agency on Aging 1-b:

1. Contract with other agencies. Make sure that residents know about these services such as Meals on Wheels or Tax assistance.
2. Referrals to services for Medicaid/Medicare assistance.
3. Maintain level of care/providing info about programs the City already partners with.

The final matter was a discussion of the report progress and format for what the Committee will present to City Council. Member Casey shared examples of past reports to show different methods. Some were large, sharing maximum information, while others were broken down to share the main points. She asked the committee members to share what stood out in the example reports that might give ideas of how to begin the framework of this presentation. Member Thomas liked the Broadband report. She likes to look at the overall goal, then identify the current abilities, then find the gaps that need to be addressed. Member Crawford shared that she tends to find the gaps first, then look at how to fill them and work towards the bigger picture. Member Casey talked about the Roads presentation. The full document given to Council was over 500 pages of data and ideas, but the actual presentation showed main ideas. OAS Manager Kieser will be working with Member Casey

to format the report. They shared a draft template to get the committee's feedback. The consensus was to gather the info into "buckets", then break them down. For example, the Services bucket would include Public Safety, Library, AAA1b, and City offerings. The main buckets that were suggested were: Transportation, Housing, Senior Center, Programming, Services & Volunteering, Communication, and "What Comes Next". Member Smith suggested that the report include goals with timelines, such as a 1-2 year and 5-year goals. As a wrap up, the question was "how do we continue these discussions". They won't expire and will need constant re-evaluation as needs change.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

Member Thomas mentioned "Blue Zones" that had been discussed in the previous meeting and encouraged everyone to take the test.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 P.M.

Transcribed by Melissa Morris, Deputy City Clerk

Date approved: September 11, 2023