

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE OLDER ADULT NEEDS COMMITTEE
CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M.**

Member Casey called the meeting to order at 5:33 P.M.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Victor Cardenas, Interim City Manager, Jeff Muck, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Director Muck asked to add a third presentation to the agenda to give an update on the Older Adult Manager hiring process.

OAN 23-05-13 Moved by Thomas, seconded by Crawford; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda.

Voice vote on OAN 23-05-13 **Yeas: Casey, Smith, Thomas, Crawford, Dooley, Nice, Wrobel**
Nays: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

OAN 23-05-14 Moved by Smith, seconded by Dooley; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the May 1, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Voice vote on OAN 23-05-14 **Yeas: Casey, Smith, Thomas, Crawford, Dooley, Nice, Wrobel**
Nays: None

REMARKS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:

Member Casey gave a brief outline of the committee's upcoming meetings which will meet on June 5th and June 12th. She then gave the floor to Director Muck to introduce the presenter for the evening.

PRESENTATIONS:

Katherine Scozzari, Recreation Supervisor, oversees the City's transportation services. The transportation team currently consists of 3 part time schedulers and 13 part time drivers. During fiscal year (FY) 21/23, the team provided 12,214 trips to 338 unique clients. Already in FY 22/23 which ends June 30, 2023, 11,502 rides have been provided to 476 unique clients, showing significant increase in demand. They average approximately 2 new unique clients per week, having signed up 138 new customers since July 1, 2022. With the demand, the ideal timeline to guarantee a ride is two weeks, but the scheduling team will work to accommodate any shorter-notice requests.

The fleet contains 6 vehicles, two of which are vans with lifts. The goal is to keep 5 vehicles in motion, leaving one vehicle behind as backup in case of emergency. Many changes

have taken place over the past 9 years, including upgrading to scheduling software as opposed to using pen and paper, and the addition of a fleet manager who is responsible for servicing the vehicles.

Statistics have shown that most of our transport has become medically based instead of leisure activities. Clients with regular appointments such as dialysis treatments can schedule with a subscription which allows them to have recurring, regular rides without having to contact the scheduler for every appointment. Each of the transportation drivers is trained in CPR, and a goal is to also train them in first aid. Having this additional training would allow them the ability to assist with minor medical issues (such as stopping minor bleeding or applying a bandage), but emergencies will continue to be directed to 911. While many medical facilities offer their own transportation services, Novi's system is cheaper than most. Rides within City boundaries are free, while any locations outside of Novi charge a one-way fee of \$5.00. Scheduling is available on Saturday, and these reservations tend to be social visits.

This presentation led into topic number 2, for which City Manager Cardenas gave an update regarding Oakland County transit. The City requested reimbursement from the County for its transit services but will have to wait to hear the final decision of how the funds will be distributed. It's a game of "hurry up and wait".

Finally, Director Muck offered an update on the Older Adult Services Manager hiring process. The team had conducted a second round of interviews earlier that day. After taking some time to review the information gathered, he hoped to make an offer to one of the candidates later that week.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

Member Crawford mentioned that she had recently met with a group of retirees whom she called the Pioneers of the Oakland County Senior Centers. Most of these centers are still thriving.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Dorothy Duchesneau spoke about the Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) that were introduced at the previous meeting on May 1. She thinks that it is an admirable option to offer, but she believes that they should be attached to an existing home. It could open up an influx of short-term rentals, like Air BnB. Rules would need to be in place before these units were zoned.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 P.M.