

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE OLDER ADULT NEEDS COMMITTEE
CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M.**

Member Casey called the meeting to order at 5:35 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:

OAN 23-05-11 Moved by Smith, seconded by Thomas; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda.

Voice vote on OAN 23-05-11 **Yeas: Casey, Smith, Thomas, Crawford, Dooley, Nice, Wrobel**
Nays: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

OAN 23-05-12 Moved by Thomas, seconded by Smith; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the April 24, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Voice vote on OAN 23-05-12 **Yeas: Casey, Smith, Thomas, Crawford, Dooley, Nice, Wrobel**
Nays: None

REMARKS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:

PRESENTATIONS:

Member Casey gave the floor to Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Director Muck who began with an update on the Older Adult Services Manager hiring process. An assessment center needed to be rescheduled due to illness, putting a temporary hold on the progress.

Director Muck provided information regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). ADUs, commonly known as In-Law Suites, are additional small living spaces on the same grounds as or attached to your regular house. These can be an apartment over the garage or a tiny house in the backyard. These units could be great options for Novi's Older Adult populations, allowing them independent living while staying a few steps away from family members who can assist them. ADUs are being investigated for the Master Plan.

Director Muck introduced Ginny Hallam, Meadowbrook Commons Community Manager, and Arielle Blagg, Office Manager/Lifestyle Director. Meadowbrook Commons is a 55+ community composed of 115 apartments and 60 ranches. 201 residents (ages from 56-102) call the facility home, and 216 names are on a waitlist. There is a wide variety of activities available including fitness classes, cultural clubs, crafts, cards, and movies. Residents

typically don't want to leave MC, and transportation services have been offered in the past with very little use. Many of the amenities the older adult community needs and wants can be found on-site including a salon, massages, and a volunteer run sundry shop.

Member Crawford asked if there might be a way to provide an internal television station for Meadowbrook Commons that would be a source of information, education, and entertainment and a bridge to other happenings in Novi. Fox Run has an in-house system for their residents, and it is a nice service for the home bound. Ms. Hallam said that they have TVs in the hallways with announcements, schedules, menus, and birthdays. Director Muck added that the City has a YouTube channel, and they recently added an Identity Theft seminar from the Police Department. Member Casey suggested that we speak to Community Relations about City Channel programming.

Member Thomas asked about the waitlist and how that was maintained. Ms. Hallam and Ms. Blagg together explained that the waitlist is broken into tiers based on age and longevity of residence in Novi. The longest an applicant has been on the list for nearly 10 years, because she hasn't been ready to move when a unit has become available. She keeps her place in line, and the next person down the list will receive the offer next. Member Crawford asked about the turnaround process. Ms. Hallam replied that once the resident gives notice, they begin the phone calls to the waitlist, and they schedule cleaning, repairs, and updates to the unit before the new tenant moves in.

When asked what the most challenging part of their job was, Ms. Hallam said it was controlling negativity. The mindfulness and kindness programs have been helping, as well as the daily positive quotes they post around the facility. Ms. Blagg added that part of the stress in the community is the constant change of residents moving in and out and adapting to those changes. Her personal struggle was caring too much and wanting to do everything. It is hard to say no, but they need to draw the line and set some boundaries.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

Member Crawford brought a handout from a panel she is part of for Erickson Living that outlined some of the indoor and outdoor wants that were described by the panel members. The Committee can review these notes for future discussion.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

There were no audience comments. At this time, the committee went on a walking tour of the facility and saw the community areas and activity rooms and were able to tour both a two-bedroom apartment and one of the ranch units.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 P.M.