

## **Commission on Aging Minutes**

December 6, 2017

3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Sustainacenter, 704 E. Boulder Street

**In attendance:** Carrie Schillinger, Nathaniel Gilmore, Cleasther Marchman, Bob Kirkpatrick, Lorri Orwig, Gloria Horne, Sara Vaas, Aubrey Day, C.J. Moore, Connie Johnson, Rita Fitzpatrick, Janet Lockhart, Claire Anderson, Sabrina Cotta, Jill Gaebler  
Guests: Craig Blewitt and Vicki McCann, Metro Mountain Transit, Erika L

### **Call to Order 3:01 pm**

### **Welcome & Introductions**

### **Citizen Comment**

No public comment

### **Updates**

#### **Emerald Towers**

Emerald Towers Apartment Working Group

Bob Kirkpatrick is attending those meetings from Commission

-January – Informal working group at City - will be reviewing policies, etc to alleviate some of pressure and cost of affordable housing

-Richard Skorman is chairing

-Extended 60 day to 90 day deadline to move

-Finding new residences: Relationships with apartment association (36 people to be placed) and Silver Key Case Management – only about 5 as of 12/5 are still seeking residences – upon giving keys (after 30 days) people are getting their \$500

-Moving: Cost associated is high - \$31,000 in donations so far

-Education

-Social/Emotional support: Silver Key Case Managers

#### **Presentation: Craig Blewitt & Vicki McCann – Metro Mountain Transit**

-Services: fixed route bus system, specialized transportation (Metro Mobility – ADA Paratransit & Human Services Transportation), Metro Rides (vanpool commuter program, schoolpool (connecting people who want to share a ride) & biking programs) – Serves 59% of urbanized area of CS

-Metro Mobility: provide all rides in MMT service area, taxi option (beyond ADA)

-Transportation for people with disabilities and seniors: door-to-door shared rides

-Fixed Routes: 16%-19% of riders are seniors or have a disability (on board survey)

-Downtown Transit Center- location study, considered 27 sites, identified final 3 sites, Mayor-appointed steering committee to prioritize 3 sites

- Short comes of current site: operations, safety and access, experience, economic revitalization
- Top site: Colorado just E of 1-25 between Sawatch and Las Animas
- 3 essentials of new site: alignment, design, access
- Joint Call Center: 1-call 1-click for human service providers
  - ONE-RIDE (663-7433)
  - Customer service improvement, cost-effectiveness and productivity
- Senior Ambassador Program
  - Seniors familiar with Mountain Metro
  - 10 hours of service required in three months, free bus fare
  - Helps seniors save money, increase mobility and maintain independence
  - Ron & Rick – Senior Ambassadors
- Real Time technology for bus arrivals
  - Using Google Maps
  - Smart phone & call in option
- Transit Plans
  - Improving service in existing service area
  - College student pass program (UCCS & CC)
  - Expand service with partnerships (working with N hospitals)
  - Expanding bus fleet (electric busses)
  - Striving to have a bench at every bus stop
    - Suggestion: Busses could use handrails/arms for use when getting up
    - Seniors with groceries – entitled to sit in front area (elderly & disabled)

Potential recommendations/review of Age Friendly Action Plan:

- Joint Call Center will be fully up and running in January (ONE-RIDE)
- Options for big city event on different options to get to the event – add option similar to “Never rode/ridden the bus?” Advertise Senior Ambassador Program, etc.
- IIAC has LART funding for Walk Your City Initiative
- Senate Bill 11 -recommendations to pursue first and last mile connections
- MMT uses 20-30% of marketing budget targeting seniors
- Commission on Aging member represented in design process of downtown transit center (oversight committee, announcements for public input on design) 8-80 design for center
- 950 total bus stops- adopt a bus shelter? CONO, Community Transit Coalition
- Complete Streets- Active Transportation Advisory Committee
- Express infill recommendations/reasons why its important to PlanCOS (white paper)

**Presentation: Lorri Orwig—Silver Key**

- Safety, dignity, independence, partnership
- El Paso County residents at least 60 years of age
- Founder Betsey Myers-Burroughs (to unlock the silver lining of aging) ---hired Mikki Kraushaar in 1971

- 2010-2040 seniors in El Paso County increase from 61,788 to 172,394
- Increase of 179% in senior population in PP Region
- Average 2,600 calls per month info & referral
- Three main services: transportation, nutrition services, case management
- Transportation
  - Door-through-door
  - 50,555 rides were provided between 2016-2017 – 482,386 miles driven
  - 9 staff drivers, 80 volunteer drivers
  - M-F 7 am -7 pm
  - Suggested ride donation is \$3.50 each way
- Nutrition
  - Meals on Wheels 59,000 meals delivered last year (fee service, sliding scale)
  - Golden Circle – 19 locations in El Paso, 1 location in Teller County, 101,929 meals served
  - CSFP/TEFAP – federal food programs (partner with Care & Share) 9676 boxes, 10,425 bags
  - Emergency Food Pantry, 255 bags issued
- Case Management
  - Aimed to help seniors maintain independence
  - Application assistance, nutrition assistance, financial assistance, health and safety assessment, mental/behavioral health assessments, etc.
- Guardianship services offered for those with no family
- 653 active volunteers
- Retail/Thrift Store
  - Will take donations of durable health equipment
  - Sell for 1/3 cost of retail

### **Older adults heat map – Sabrina Cotta**

*Draft a list of questions the heat map may answer*

Current map is by density

Map by sheer numbers

Golden Circle, Community Centers, Senior Center, YMCAs

Poverty

Owning vs renting, assisted living/nursing

Low vehicle access

Include zip codes rather than council districts?

Add hospitals

### **Items for next month /Member announcements**

- Draft white paper for PlanCOS – review via email
- City of Colorado Springs Strategic Plan overview at next meeting
- Downtown Partnership City Series -January – Transportation possible topic
- Possible dates to come to Silver Key for lunch

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 2, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 pm at Sustainacenter, 704 E. Boulder Street**

**Adjourn 4:59 pm**