

**Senior Services | Aging in Place Task Force
Housing Working Group Minutes
March 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting 5**

1. Call to Order

The chair calls the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: Richard Schmitt, Susan Clark, Jerry Amber, James Downing, Jim Schneider, Nancy Robinson, Carol Windorf, Melinda Loftin

Absent: Cynthia DeMan, Joan Koelsch, Eric Brown

Also in attendance: Rachel Bush, Erin Koch

3. Approval of Minutes from last meeting(s)

A) Regular Meeting February 16th, 2022'

Motion to approve: Jerry Amber

Second: James Downing

All in favor. The motion carries.

4. Approval of Agenda for tonight's meeting

Adjustment to 5d: In the previous meeting, we approved our "we heard" statement and our tentative goals.

Add discussion with speaker Erin Koch, the assistant senior center and activities coordinator.

Add discussion about Oakland County Blueprint for Aging – there are similarities to the Boston blueprint that we've been discussing, the group should review this and discuss in the future.

Note: Two extra meetings may be scheduled on May 4th and May 20th to finish developing recommendations and finalize the report to the task force.

Motion to approve: Carol Windorf

Second: Jim Schneider

All in favor. The motion carries.

5. Meeting Dates (Virtual), Key Results and Objectives:

- a. January 5th, 2022 – get to know each, review mission/vision and data
- b. January 26th, 2022 – establish what we heard from data, special report from Planning Director (master Plan Update, Housing Rehab Program and R.O.S.E.S. funding), and submit proposed Vision statements for Special meeting

- c. February 3rd, 2022 – Establish ‘We Envision’ Statement and start thinking about goals for next Regular Meeting and any other ideas of external reports needed.
- d. February 16th, 2022 – establish Goals for our domain (Housing) and listen to any other external presentations and think about recommendations to achieve our goals.
- e. March 9th, 2022 - start to establish recommendations to achieve our goals
- f. March 23rd, 2022- continue to work on recommendations and start to finalize our report
- g. April 13th, 2022- finalize our report to the task force

6. Discussion with Erin Koch, Assistant Senior Center and Activities Coordinator (of the Mahany/Meininger Senior Center)

- Need for more employees to take on more ROSES program customers
- Some customers have special, one-time needs – seasonal work like raking leaves, cleaning gutters
- Staffing through the high school or community college programs – there are volunteer opportunities for students to interact with seniors but there hasn’t been a great turnout
 - Volunteer/employee screenings are required

From the group’s perspective, there is need for the Senior Center to act as more of a resource center, where they can meet with a coordinator and receive referrals for contractors, housing, etc. It’s also an accessible site for informational events and sharing resources with those who are less tech-oriented.

March 1 – Tech Fair at the Senior Center was a success. In the future, event topics could be geared toward housing, home services, etc.

7. Oakland County Blueprint

Organized into two categories: housing repairs and housing chores

- Stakeholders seem to have interest in expanding their services to accommodate underserved areas in western Oakland County
- Focus would be to help Royal Oak seniors stay in their single-family homes, since they likely have lived there for a long time and don’t want to move

How is it that eastern Oakland County can provide more services than the western side?

- Work group members will reach out to Rochester Hills and Troy to find out how they’ve addressed these challenges through their Older Persons Commission (OPC) and report back next meeting
- <https://opcseiorcenter.org/>

8. Discuss tentative Goals established at last meeting and finalize.

Tentative goals can be found in the [previous meeting minutes](#).

[AARP HomeFit Guide](#)

Ideas that meet Royal Oak’s needs at an acceptable scale is key. Ideas for more goals:

- [Village to Village Network](#) – grassroots organizations of volunteers and paid staff through 501c(3), not clear what the role of the city would be in something like this or if there is potential

- [The Boston Villages Beacon Hill](#) model requires a membership fee to support staff and activities. Need to connect the dots and get the resources (membership) to fund these services.
 - Goal: looking at the feasibility of a concept like the Beacon Hill model to help us accomplish some of these goals
- Need a bigger pool of potential workers
 - What needs to happen to incentivize (vetted) vendors, landscaping companies to take on a few local seniors (pro bono or paid for by membership fees) to provide services?
 - Toward the end of the Oakland County blueprint document, there was a referral form for companies to fill out if they'd like to donate their services or materials
 - Area Agency on Aging 1-B also provides services

9. Start to develop about recommendations to achieve our Goals.

Are there underutilized funds from grant funding/CDBG available to the Senior Center to help reach some of these goals? Find this out.

Identify underutilized spaces/buildings in Royal Oak to promote adaptive reuse and infill geared toward senior housing

- An example of this in Royal Oak was funded through a CDBG. This required a conditional rezoning to permit the non-conforming use of the site. The future Master Plan should earmark certain parcels where the City is agreeable to development like this.

10. Public Comments

None submitted.

11. Adjourn

The group adjourned at 8:37 PM.