

**Minutes**  
**Senior Services | Aging in Place Task Force**  
**Community Engagement and Inclusion Working Group**  
**February 24, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order**

Community engagement and Inclusion Working Group meeting called to order at 6:32pm.

Introduction of new team member Jacky Hudson. Returned from Oregon to Michigan. Worked with the Oregon Department of Human Services; worked with aging and people with disabilities as a policy analyst.

**2. Roll Call**

List of Community Engagement and Inclusion Working Group attendants on the webinar:  
Present: Sarah Kindinger, Chair; Howard Collens, Vice Chair; Ellen Kehoe; Carolynn Moore; Christina Clarke; Sandy Irwin; Deb Soverinsky; Kim Johnson; Jacky Hudson  
Absent: None

Others present: John Fedele, Royal Oak Recreation Director, Erin Koch, Royal Oak Senior Events Coordinator; Susan Barkman, Assistant to the City Manager; Janice Wagman

**3. Review minutes from previous meeting**

Motion to move review January meeting minutes to next meeting

Motion: Sandy Irwin

Aye: All

Nay: None

**4. Presentations from other groups, and organizations.**

The group reviewed the “we are” statements from previous meetings.

Invited expert guests:

- **John Fedele, Royal Oak Recreation Director**

Salter community center and senior community center

Daily walks, pickleball, socialization and activities. We engage through Insite Magazine which goes out to seniors and people outside of Royal Oak boundaries but have students in royal oak school district. Reach out with flyers, mailers, email, website, and Facebook and we have

many return volunteers We look for volunteers at events like dream cruse and art fair. We could do a better job at reaching out to people that don't use communication technology platforms.

- **Erin Koch, Royal Oak Senior Events Coordinator**

Strongest point are volunteers. Many volunteers at senior center, about 70 volunteers for various tasks like helping with food delivery and setting up games. Everyone is welcome at senior center. Free to visit but some events have fees. Seniors make up their Part-time workforce. Many different clubs like garden, computer, mahjong, ect. Partner with SMART bus for day trips. Grand experience is a charter bus to Mackinac. Free Senior Times monthly newsletter with 280 subscribers and available online. We would like to grow our email communications with more specific and targeted information. Many different classes like American sign language open to all ages.

Insight is quarterly and the Senior Times is monthly

Do you have any multigenerational programing?

There is a preschool there and are involved. Adult special needs working with seniors. Hear your story, middle school history club. Middle school History Club event called *Hear Your Story* where seniors talked about history and students recorded it.

How many people participate in programs because of the mailing?

We get a lot of participation from the mailing. It's a bulk mailer list organized by the postal service and goes out 33,000 people. Walk in programs like Stretch and Strength is very popular.

It is important to grow email communication.

- **Susan Barkman, Assistant to the city manager**

Susan Barkman provided some information on how seniors could get involved in city government. The clerk has information how to get involved in the city's many boards and commissions. The applications are online and good for up to two years. Election inspectors are another way to get involved. These are paid positions but must have computer experience.

How do we communicate what boards and commissions are available?

You can go to: [www.romi.gov/commissionsboardsandcommittees](http://www.romi.gov/commissionsboardsandcommittees)

Is there a print version available?

The clerk's office will find a way to help apply in paper and offline.

Are vacancies and other opportunities in the Insight Quarterly?

They would if it falls within the quarter, they could advertise it.

Have we considered doing the publication more than quarterly?

The publication aligns with seasonal seasonal programing and the city operates in quarters. There are ways to signup for alerts on the website.

Do we have a community center?

We have the Salter Community Center. It's a more challenging center for programing because the City of Royal Oak and the Metro Detroit Youth Club both use the location.

Everyone is aware of programming because they receive but don't read Insight. The Insight doesn't go to apartments but are available in most city buildings.

- **Sandy Irwin, Library Director**

Covid programming was all online via Zoom

They have book clubs for everyone.

Pre-covid all the programs were in person.

Daytime programs were not well attended.

Great collection of large print books. Memory kits designed for people with memory issues.

Mail program. Seed library. Library of things, with things you can cook with, games, instruments, and lots of other things.

Library volunteering opportunities.

Challenges are meeting people where they are. Reaching people that aren't library users.

Virtual program. Older adults don't like the parking garage. Transportation is an issue.

Library has a newsletter that goes out every three months. Looking to change the newsletter and have a mailing list. Looking at changing long term planning.

How does someone who is homebound can check things out?

We have an online library card application. Make it easier to apply without coming in. We're not sure what to do about homebound people.

We could we open to outside residents?

We're part of The Library Network. You can borrow materials from any other library in the TLN.

Does Royal Oak have a bookmobile?

No, but we have a van. Once COVID clears up we'll start using our van.

How active is the Friends of the Library group?

Very active. We have between Two to ten Friends volunteer a day.

Pre covid did we advertise in Barton Towers or other senior living centers?

The library has a section in Insight and they get that there.

There's a weekly email that could link to the newsletter to everything else. Could this be we link all the newsletters?

That's a good idea.

- **Kim Johnson, Interclub Council President**

Kim reads a presentation about the Interclub Council.

Goal is to provide civic service through the organized efforts of others.

Made up of a wide spectrum of local organizations.

Meet on the second Friday of each month.

Share information through emails, share space, cross attendance,

We struggle with communication. A lot of it is word of mouth. Even the organizations themselves struggle with understanding that they need to get the word out.

### **Other presenters as available**

No other presenters.

Is there more we need to hear about?

The group doesn't think so.

Howard suggests the school would be interesting to hear from.

We haven't touch much on neighborhood activities. Ellen could get information from neighborhood associations.

That could be part of next meeting.

## **5. Public input**

Janice Wegman is part of the communications working group and gives an update about communications. Available is the email blast on the romi.gov, Insight is online, and Civic Plus is being started.

We're meeting virtually for the next meeting. Howard can't attend and does the group want to move the meeting so Howard can join? Howard says not to do that.

Sandy: We should work on neighborhood connections.

## **6. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Sandy Irwin

Second by Kim Johnson

Approved unanimously