

**Senior Services | Aging in Place Task Force
Housing Working Group Minutes
April 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting 6**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by the Chair.

2. Roll Call

Present: Richard Schmitt, Cynthia DeMan, Susan Clark, Jerry Amber, James Downing, Jim Schneider, Melinda Loftin
Absent: Nancy Robinson, Carol Windorf
Also in attendance: Rachel Bush, Peter Young

3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

- a) Regular Meeting March 23rd, 2022
Motion by Cynthia.
Seconded by Susan.
All in favor. The motion passes unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda for tonight's meeting

5. Next Meeting Dates (Virtual):

- a) May 4th, 2022 – continue work on recommendations and metrics
- b) May 18th, 2022 – finalize our report to the Task force

6. Review any feedback from Troy Community Center support to their Seniors

Discussion with Allyson Leach (Recreation Supervisor)

- Troy Senior Home Assistance Repair Program (SHARP): is available for Troy homeowners that are either seniors age 60 and over, physically challenged or active military personnel. The goal is to enhance quality of life by making homes safer, and reducing the stress and confusion involved with making home repairs. Labor is provided free by volunteers and supplies are paid for by homeowners.
- [Resource page](#)
 - Very comprehensive, including social services beyond Oakland County, utility assistance, housing services
- Geographic scope of Royal Oak's resource list should include Madison Heights, Southfield, other adjacent communities
 - James will start a list of senior housing establishments/resources and send it to the group to make additions

- Recommendation: Put together a comprehensive resource list and share with Senior Center staff to compare and make edits

7. Review and discuss goals and recommendations drafted by Cynthia DeMan

SMART GOAL #1: Establish a permanent coordinator/ombudsman position funded by the City of Royal Oak beginning with the 2023-24 fiscal year budget to address the growing needs of the Senior Community.

Recommendations for duties of the coordinator/ombudsman:

- 1) Create awareness campaign that will reach all residents regarding available financial assistance/programs for seniors (R.O.S.E.S program, home repair grants, Senior Center Programs)
- 2) Target market all Senior households with information regarding available services
- 3) Maintain a list of local contractors/handyman services (the office will not recommend)
- 4) Establish and coordinate volunteer programs (businesses, students, churches)
- 5) Be the Liaison between the Senior Community and the City of Royal Oak
- 6) Research and write grants for services and opportunities that will benefit the Senior Community.

Edit to Goal #1: Consider volunteer alternatives to hiring a FTE in Goal #1 – what amount of work can the existing Senior Center staff take on?

SMART GOAL #2: The 2023 review of the Royal Oak Master Plan will require the City to reflect and address the established need for Senior centered housing.

Recommendations:

- 1) Include the Age-Friendly Community Goals (AARP)
- 2) Commit to exploring the Village Concept (Boston Beacon Hill Village)
- 3) Include the findings of the Aging in Place Task Force Committees when making decisions

Recommendation: Through the master plan, identify sites specifically the City of Royal Oak would like to be developed as senior housing or accessible, single-story housing units

Recommendation: Where applicable, the City could acquire property (or make land that the City already owns) available to develop and solicit RFPs

Forthcoming: Deck of cards for marketing and awareness – distributed through the Senior Center and other pathways promoting this work and services to the senior community

Grants are applied for through multiple channels: the City Manager's office, Community Development Department, Senior Center

Private sector – their role in development of senior housing, the function of developers in the Master Plan

- City must be involved in suggesting where infill development could take place, consolidating sites, pre-zoning sites, fast-tracked permitting, site control to maintain affordable housing criteria, cooperating to apply for low-income tax credits through the state for affordable housing
- Affordable vs. market-rate housing – Royal Oak can act as a public-sector partner, acquire sites they would like to see developed into housing, and make them available for developers

Does Planning or Engineering Department have public-facing lists of which projects/new builds are proposed or pending in Royal Oak?

8. Review and discuss summary document prepared by Richard Schmitt of our results to date

9. Finalize Goals and start on recommendations and metrics.

- Need to consider ways to measure the success of the goals and recommendations.

10. Public Comments

None made.

11. Adjourn

The group adjourns at 8:24 PM.