



# SENIORS COMMISSION

Quality Services for a Quality Community

## **MEMBERS**

Joan Martin Alam  
Trudy Bower  
Jean Brisbo  
Vice Chair, Sandra House,  
Chair, Jim Levande  
Robert Nelson  
Jack Nolish  
Cindy Whiddon  
Maria Zdybel

## **City Council Liaison**

Mark Meadows

## **Staff Liaison**

Kelly Arndt  
(517) 337-1113

## **PRIME TIME SENIORS' PROGRAM**

819 Abbot Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823

(517) 337-1113  
[www.elprimetime.com](http://www.elprimetime.com)

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**March 4, 2019 - 1:00 p.m.**

East Lansing Hannah Community Center  
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing

### **1) Call To Order and Roll Call**

House called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

Commission members not present:

Liaisons present: Mayor Mark Meadows and Director Kelly Arndt

### **2) Approval of Minutes of March Commission Meeting**

The motion to approve the minutes Levande, seconded by Zdybel. Motioned passed.

### **3) Approval of Agenda**

Levande moved Alam seconded. Motion passed.

### **4) PRESENTATION**

#### **Tim Dempsey**

The desire of the city is to look at building requirements to include certain universal design features into developments.

Our first challenge was where to put these regulations since the state statute is explicate on what can and cannot be included in building code. What we did is to place that code into the zoning ordinance and to place restrictions there, because we could not change the state statute and add additional requirements to the Michigan Building Code. Another challenge, was how does one define universal design? Accessibility is what we looked at, not necessarily universal design features, because accessibility for someone who is blind might be different than for someone in a wheel chair. Someone in a wheel chair might need lower countertops; however that isn't an issue for someone who is blind. U.D is very broad in its scope.

What it comes down to, is there is no definition for U.D. So we are looking at the basics, like wider doorways and hallways, levers on the door handles, things that generally will be beneficial to all that we will include in the ordinance. The ordinance now applies to the residential multifamily districts only. It does not apply in the business districts and the projects downtown. The zoning is set up by land use, we have residential, multifamily districts, and business districts. Some of these uses overlap. U.D. is located in the multifamily districts so the ordinance would apply to those districts only. Going forward we can look at an ordinance change to modify this so we can include it in all districts. This can

be easily corrected and addressed by bringing it to council. A question was asked by Levande as to what A verse B meant on the current ordinance. Dempsey explained that A is defined as accessible and they must have so many of the required units as a part of the proposal. Type B units are adaptable units which means these units can be modified to meet those standards at a later date if needed. The question was asked as to why the representatives don't know about U.D. features in the buildings. Dempsey answered a lot of times a marketing person rather than the developer is sent to talk about the construction and they would not necessarily know that universal design features were included.

#### 5) **Commission Chair Comments – Sandy House**

This was Robert Nelson's first meeting as a new commissioner. House welcomed him and the group introduced themselves. A new commission roster was handed out.

House asked if anyone had the opportunity to look at the links she provided regarding universal design. It identifies the ten most important universal design features.

House thanked Cindy Whiddon for serving as Vice Chair. She called for a vote to move up "Old Business" and cover the other items when Mark and Tim arrive. The Commission was good with that, and the motion was made by Levande and supported by Alam. It unanimously passed.

It was decided going forward commission packets will include the minutes but not the agenda. Hard copies of agendas will be provided at the meetings and the minutes will not be. They will be sent out digitally at least one week prior to the meeting. In the last two years the city has had a goal to go paperless in an effort to save resources. This will help.

#### A) **Director's Report – Kelly Arndt**

Arndt mentioned the Commission would like to tour Newman Loft Apartments when they are ready. Mayor Meadows indicated that could be arranged.

Over the years we have developed two partnerships with L.C.C. and M.S.U. College of Nursing Programs. We are satellite locations for both of these groups. Since the pre nursing would like to interface with the senior population we are a good location for this. However it has become problematic with our members, as classroom space becomes limited with students participating in programs as well. We've decided to discontinue our partnership with the MSU College of Nursing at this time and continue with the L.C.C. Nursing Program since they administer our popular foot care clinic.

#### B) **City Council Liaison Report – Mark Meadows tape- 1:27**

All of the development projects in the city are on schedule. Target, Jolly Pumpkin, and Barrios Restaurant are all retailers that will be included into downtown developments.

The HUB will be occupied this fall. And the senior apartments should be opened at that time. This week we had a development project on Grove Street that would stretch down to Waters Edge St.

A question was asked about how many marijuana dispensaries will be opening? We really only have one issue with the dispensaries, the original proposal defined four locations in the city, located to the north, south, east, and west of the city. We currently have an application on the northern edge near Coolidge and on the old DPW location on Haslett Rd., where the dentist office is located, and two applications at the old Sawyer Pontiac site, and one location we have on Grand River between Cedar Street and Hagadorn has five applications. There are between four and six dispensaries who have applied for a location in the city, and Meridian Twp. has six as well. The applicants must first apply through the state which is a 50 page application before they apply at local levels, and applicants must have a half million dollar to apply. It's a huge investment. They cannot be located in residential buildings.

C) Age-Friendly Communities – Dr. Levande

The AFC Steering Committee is now looking at the action plans and how they cross over into the eight domains of livability. Right now each of the committee members has a matrix they are using to identify which action plans will be prioritized. The Challenge Grant is offered through AARP, and focuses on the action plans. It must be completed by November 4<sup>th</sup>. Age-Alive through the university is willing to help with the application. The grant amount mentioned was \$10,000.

**6) New Business:**

**7) Old Business:** Petition from participants of Aqua Fit Class

The petition from the Aqua Fit Class was passed around again. Brisbo wanted to know what the response was and who she spoke with. House met with the Director of Parks and Recreation Tim McCaffery and Elaine Hardy the Community Center Coordinator to discuss access through the covered entrance for our disabled and mobility challenged members to have access to the pool. The director indicated they did research on safety and this was the safest way to go with one point of entry and were sticking with that policy. Brisbo shared how difficult it would be to utilize the back door entrance by sharing a video of the location. The commission viewed the video and deemed the location unacceptable by putting an additional hardship on those already dealing with challenges. Brisbo explained the challenges to get to the pool. As an individual with an autoimmune disease she needs to continue to engage in these types of activities to stay well, yet we're not making it easy or even equitable for individuals with disabilities. The pool allows her to keep the mobility she currently has and to maintain it. There are ways we can make the cover entrance more accessible. There's equipment out there to allow people access by using a code to enter. We're not asking for the moon, we're asking for someone to open a door for the most vulnerable of our residents. Brisbo suggested the commission take this to city council, and contact those on the petition who are interested in attending as well. Zdybel stated this is not a Prime Time issue but an

accessibility issue for all residents. She asked that the commission and this issue be an item on the agenda. The commission agreed.

A motion was made by Levande and supported by Nolish that Sandy House request that the Senior Commission be placed on the 3/12/19 council agenda to address access to the pool through the covered entrance. It passed unanimously.

Hardy stated this is a standard operating procedure after 911. We have twenty-one doors at the center and we can't be at all of them all the time. And that's the policy we have and that's it.

Levande asked who's responsible for that policy. City Council is. This reinforced the commissions resolve to speak at a council meeting.

Meadows mentioned to the commission they may wish to bring this up during the Parks and Recreation meeting.

## **8) Adjournment**

Comments: Levande recommended a book he has read entitled, "No Time to Spare. Think about what matters." He said everyone at the table would enjoy reading it.

House adjourned the meeting at 2.55 p.m. The next Senior Commission meeting will be held on April 1, 2019 at 1:00 p.m..