

Senior Advisory Council Minutes, August 4, 2025
Gregg/Klice Community Center

Members present: Bradshaw, Forrest, Hilt, Kabiser, Wilson; Howard Rice, City Clerk's Office
Guests: Glenn, Hennosy

Chairperson Forrest called the meeting to order and offered a prayer. Minutes of the July 7th meeting were discussed and approved.

Old Business:

Member Wilson addressed the issue of our council members' expired terms. The City Clerk's office has advised patience and indicated that the City Council will address the issue of reinstatement when they have time.

Chair Forrest stated that because of telephone number confusion, we would not have an AARP representative at this meeting. A speaker from the organization will be invited to present updated information about senior issues at our September meeting.

Committee reports:

Member Kabiser reported that the Kansas City public bus service reports that maintaining free services at the current level is resulting in a financial loss to the system. City First District Councilperson Willett has proposed that the free service be limited to low income riders; others could pay. These concerns continue under City Council discussion.

Kabiser also reported that the Dollar General building collapse liability issues are being discussed in Council closed session meetings. Member Hilt reported that there had been no record of inspections or of building permits prior to the collapse.

Member Wilson reported that the Prospect Corridor renovation project is seeking citizen input. Concerns in this area include crime rates and security for the World Cup. Federal monies to address these concerns have not yet been released.

Member Wilson discussed the Freedom Wall at 31st and Benton which is designed to honor citizens of outstanding service to city and community. Delay in Jackson County funding for the project has resulted in a postponement in the nomination of candidates for the honor. Guest Hennosy commented that perhaps the project should continue as planned, since the delay might trigger the reverting of designated funds back to the general fund.

Member Kabiser recently attended a political meeting in support of the First District City Councilperson Nathan Willett's campaign for Missouri State Senate. Attendees at the meeting learned that the Kansas City Police Department is understaffed by 400 police officers; the Kansas City Fire Department is offering an Ambulance Service membership plan which would allow no out-of-pocket expense to members for medically necessary emergency transports. Kaiser also reported that the Kansas City

Health Department will talk about vaccines at a meeting of the Northland Neighborhoods Inc. at 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on August 6th at 5340 N. E. Chouteau Trafficway , Kansas City, MO. 64119.

Chair Forrest suggested inviting seniors to attend our Senior Advisory Council meetings through neighborhood associations and community centers. She also mentioned the need for followup on prior Advisory Council presentations and projects relevant to seniors such as the funding for the Jackson County Seniors Count bond issue recently approved by voters.

Discussion continued about the need for communication among the City Council, our Council and the seniors we represent. Would it be possible to attend a City Council meeting as a group? Could we invite a Council Member to be present, even if briefly, to each of our meetings? City Clerk Office representative Howard Rice reported that the City Communication Department is charged with disseminating information to the public about city meetings and activities. Chair Forrest will contact Jared Horman from that office about providing help in publicizing information relevant to seniors through community centers and other outlets. Member Bradshaw was asked to draft a letter to be sent to City Council members addressing our concerns about lack of appointments and weak communication. Members discussed the importance of recognition of senior citizens as a large voting bloc. Guest Hennosy reported attending a MARC (Mid America Regional Council) meeting about the State of Missouri's Master Plan for aging citizens. Seniors in Missouri outnumber younger citizens by a 2 to 1 ratio. 90% of seniors in Missouri are below poverty level.

The Council discussed City Council Ordinance NO. 240261 renaming the Senior Citizens' Advisory Council, outlining its advisory functions, membership, and elections. The Council decided that as we do not currently have a quorum in our membership, we will continue to push the City Council for appointments from the unrepresented districts, as well as for reinstatement for those whose terms have expired. An election for chairperson will follow in May of 2026. Marilyn Sanders of the City Clerk's office reported that our current budget account funds stand at \$5000.

Third District City Councilperson Melissa Robertson stopped in from a Third District meeting in a neighboring room at the request of Third District Member Wilson. Wilson is concerned about senior accessibility issues, specifically about the new parking lot in the 18th and Vine district which will distance many seniors from amenities. Councilperson Roberts stated that she will try to follow up on our concerns. City Planning should be invited to our meeting to talk about accessibility issues for the 14 developments currently underway in the third district. A meeting is scheduled on October 11th in the Convention Center which will inform citizens about progress in these Third District developments. The meeting theme is "Bloom Where Planted."

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Bradshaw
Sixth District

