

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE OLDER ADULT NEEDS COMMITTEE
CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, March 27, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M.**

Member Casey called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Council Member Casey, Council Member Smith, Kathy Crawford, Jay Dooley (arrived 5:50 pm), Kim Nice, Debbie Wrobel.
Absent (excused): Council Member Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: Victor Cardenas, City Manager and Jeff Muck, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

OAN 23-03-04 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Smith; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda as presented.

Voice vote on OAN 23-03-04 **Yeas: Casey, Smith, Crawford, Nice, Wrobel**
 Nays: None
 Absent: Thomas, Dooley

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

OAN 23-03-05 Moved by Smith, seconded by Nice; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the February 13, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Voice vote on OAN 23-03-05 **Yeas: Casey, Smith, Crawford, Nice, Wrobel**
 Nays: None
 Absent: Thomas, Dooley

OAN 23-03-06 Moved by Smith, seconded by Nice; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the March 13, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Voice vote on OAN 23-03-06 **Yeas: Casey, Smith, Crawford, Nice, Wrobel**
 Nays: None
 Absent: Thomas, Dooley

PRESENTATIONS:

Assistant Chief of Police Scott Baetens represented the Novi Police Department and shared data relating Police activities and Novi's Older Adults population. In 2022, they responded to almost 800 calls requesting wellness checks for neighbors and family members. They also respond to missing person reports, called walk aways or drive aways. Unlike it is portrayed on TV, a person does not have to be missing for 24/48 hours before they can be reported missing. The department works together with family members and

neighbors and can call upon neighboring communities and Oakland County to aid in their search.

The United States Secret Service Cyber Fraud Task gave a presentation to Older Adult Services in council chambers on March 22nd, and will offer a second session at Fox Run on May 10th. Due to these educational programs, the number of fraud and extortion cases involving Novi Seniors is lower than many other communities.

The Novi Police Department has a feature in its computer system referred to as "Citizens with Special Needs". This allows the Police/Fire medical services to be aware of any special situations you may have prior to responding to your home. Residents can enroll their loved ones by completing a Special Needs Form, which is available at the Police Department or on the City website.

Assistant Fire Chief John Martin spoke on services his team provides. Already in 2023, they have received 1295 calls for EMS, 991 of them were linked to residents aged 50+. Novi is home to ten independent and dependent care facilities. To date, 449 calls have been received from these facilities, including 407 medical calls, 32 lift assists, and several false alarms or calls that resulted in no services being provided.

The fire department offers fire and fall prevention inspections, during which an officer will walk through a home with a checklist and look for safety concerns. They may find uneven sidewalks or rugs in the home that could present a trip hazard, or suggest the installation of grab handles to aid with standing up or balance. Smoke and CO2 detectors are checked and many times a yard stick can be left in the home so the resident can test the detectors without having to climb a step stool or ladder.

Both branches of public safety offer incredible services to the Novi community, and especially our Older Adults.

Brian Riley, Code Compliance officer with the City of Novi, discussed some of the most common code issues he encounters with our Senior community. They include home and building maintenance, snow and yard cleanup, hoarding and/or unsafe living conditions, and neglected vehicles. Brian spoke about wanting to implement a program with local home owners associations in which neighborhoods would have their own "task force" that would work together to help better care for their older adult and disabled neighbors before calling the City for assistance. Most times an issue with yard maintenance is not intentional negligence, and a simple knock on the door could lead to a quick resolution. Ideally, these groups could task a teenage resident with snow removal or to mow the lawn of an elderly neighbor.

Member Crawford presented documentation regarding the importance of Older Adults having a sense of purpose and belonging. Having access to community programs, transportation, and having these dates to look forward to can have a large impact on longevity and health. She also discussed some findings from a recent Novi Library survey,

specifically issues tied to our Senior residents. Many of these findings will be addressed at an upcoming meeting when we hear from Library staff.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Transcribed by Melissa Morris, Deputy City Clerk

Date approved: April 10, 2023