

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE OLDER ADULT NEEDS COMMITTEE
CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M.**

Member Casey called the meeting to order at 5:37 P.M.

ROLL CALL: **PRESENT:** Council Member Casey, Council Member Smith, Council Member Thomas, Kathy Crawford, Kim Nice, Debbie Wrobel
ABSENT: Jay Dooley (Excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Muck, PRCS Director, Kit Kieser, OAS Manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

OAN 24-04-13 Moved by Nice, seconded by Smith; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda.

Voice vote on OAN 24-04-13 Yeas: Casey, Smith, Thomas, Crawford, Nice, Wrobel
Nays: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

OAN 24-04-14 Moved by Thomas, seconded by Smith; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the March 25th, 2024, meeting minutes.

Voice vote on OAN 24-04-14 Yeas: Casey, Smith, Thomas, Crawford, Nice, Wrobel
Nays: None

REMARKS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON: NONE

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

1. Discussion on possible fare reduction for new senior transportation

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director Muck said that he had been attending regular progress meetings with People's Express (PEX), and they were to the point of needing recommendations regarding pricing for fares. Four options were discussed:

- a. Eliminate all rider subsidies: Riders would be subject to fares set by Oakland County.
- b. Subsidize medical rides only: The City would reimburse PEX for any medical rides for Novi Seniors.
- c. Subsidize individuals 55+ and people with disabilities: The City would reimburse PEX for any rides for 55+ residents and anyone with a disability.
- d. Subsidize all rides: The City would reimburse PEX for all rides for any eligible Novi resident.

A motion was made to recommend option B: subsidize medical rides only. Discussion continued, and the committee discussed the possibility of an increase in no call/no show riders if the cost was removed. OAS Manager Kieser said that NC/NS was not a common

occurrence. Member Crawford asked how PEX defined "disability". Staff said that they define it the same way that Novi defines it. She then asked to amend the motion to read "Subsidize medical rides for residents 55+ and any ride for those experiencing a limiting disability and unable to drive".

OAN 24-04-15 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To recommend that City Council subsidize medical rides for residents 55+ and any ride for those experiencing a limiting disability and unable to drive.

Voice vote on OAN 24-04-15

Yeas: Casey, Smith, Thomas, Crawford, Nice, Wrobel

Nays: None

2. Advocacy (continuation)

Member Casey shared a list of what advocacy for Seniors should look like, and then they could discuss who would be tasked with enacting these ideas. She gave the members of this team the title of "Ambassadors". The group discussed what this new committee might look like. Would it be a newly formed committee? Should members be placed onto other boards and commissions to act as non-voting members who would be able to provide input? Would this continue to fall under the PRCS team? The Older Adult Services Advisory Board was mentioned as a possibility but would require an update to their charter to give them these extra responsibilities.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Farah Baig made the following comments regarding the upcoming Senior Advocacy group:

- If someone is placed onto a board or commission with no voting power, they really come with no power. They should be given a budget and autonomy to set their own agenda.
- She asked how does our OAS align with the County and State in regard to their existing offerings?
- She noted that one item missing on the list of items for the advocacy group was outreach and DEI.
- She also urged the team work to make the transition from Novi Senior transportation to PEX as seamless as possible and to avoid any increase in cost for Seniors.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 P.M.