

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

Senior Outreach Services Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 - 8:30 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Village Trustee Prill called the regular meeting of the McFarland Senior Outreach Services Committee to order at 8:30 am in Conference Room A of the McFarland Municipal Center.

Members present: Lowell J. Prill, Ken Boyd, Jerry Adrian, Colleen McCormick, Barb Vander Werff (Village Board President Stephanie Brassington in attendance as observer only)

Members not present: Vito Griseta, Diane Mikelbank

Staff Present: Katie Gletty-Syoen, Matt Schuenke, Dawn Wallace

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

- a. *This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Senior Outreach Services Committee. Members of the public who wish to address the Committee should fill out a public comment form and turn into the meeting chairperson. Members of the public may speak during public appearances or during their selected agenda item as they designate on the public comment form. Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit. Additionally, you may send your public comments to senior.outreach@mcfarland.wi.us to be included as part of the meeting.*

No public appearances.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. *Motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2025 meeting.*

Motion by Jerry Adrian, second by Barb Vanderwerff, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2025 meeting. Motion carries 5 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. *Older American's Month Proclamation.*

Katie Gletty-Syoen reported that she read the Older Americans Month proclamation at the last Village Board meeting.

- b. *Dementia Friendly Initiative*

Katie Gletty-Syoen listed the three main initiatives that the Senior Outreach Services Department will concentrate on: 1) Falls prevention, 2) Social isolation; and 3) Dementia awareness (by providing education, increasing awareness and by taking action in our community). She presented a packet of information regarding "Building Dementia-Friendly Communities." She noted that McFarland had started this process in the past, but it was not supported sufficiently to keep it going. She would like to re-start the process of getting committee and/or community members trained who then go to area businesses (Village staff members, banks, schools, churches, etc.) to train employees. It was noted that trainers are volunteers and not staff. Jerry Adrian recommended bringing this idea to the Lions Club (by himself or Katie), Colleen McCormick will bring it to the Lioness group and Barb Vanderwerff to the exercise classes she attends. A few ways we can increase awareness is through the Senior

Outreach booth at the McFarland Community Festival, and by forming a team for the fall Alzheimer's Association fundraising walk.

Matt Schuenke recommended that this be made an agenda item for the next SOS committee meeting so that the group can vote on whether to propose this idea to the Village Board. If adopted, the next step would be to recruit volunteers.

c. Review Senior Services Planning Document

Matt Schuenke reviewed the planning document created by this committee in 2020-2021. The design work was halted by the Village Board in 2024 and we are now "taking a step back" and looking at how things have changed and what we need going forward. Jerry Adrian shared the history of the planning of the senior services portion of this project (going back many years). He noted that having a dedicated Senior Center was a priority then, which seems to have been lost. It was decided that this committee needs to be proactive in bringing plans and recommendations to the Village Board and emphasizing what focal points for towns of similar size are doing in our area. Katie Gletty-Syoen will meet with the focal point directors in Oregon, Fitchburg, Stoughton and Deforest and compile data for the committee to consider (staffing, volunteers, programs, etc.)

d. Update on programs and services.

Katie Gletty-Syoen presented updates to 2025 Senior Outreach programs and events. One event that is potentially being added (in partnership with the library) is a Wisconsin author's talk and book signing (the subject of the book is the author's personal experience of his wife's dementia).

Katie encouraged everyone to attend Senior Outreach events as representatives of this committee. She reviewed the event calendar for June, July and August.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 8:30a.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Colleen McCormick, second by Barb Vanderwerff, to adjourn at 9:50am.

Pursuant to law, written notice of this meeting was given to the public and posted on the public bulletin board in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Wallace
Nutrition Manager