



# EAST LANSING AGENDA

## Seniors Commission Meeting

9:30 AM - Monday, May 4, 2026

Hannah Community Center - 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823

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# MINUTES

## Seniors Commission Meeting

9:30 AM - Monday, April 6, 2026

Hannah Community Center - 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823

The Seniors Commission of the City of East Lansing was called to order on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 9:30 AM, in the Hannah Community Center - 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** Carol Brownell, Diana Paiz, Jim Levande, Commissioner John Goddeeris, Chair Kathy Bouchard-Wyant, and Judith Wattenberg

**EXCUSED:** Libby Keenan

### 1. OPENING

#### Roll Call

Also in attendance were Councilmember Mark Meadows, City Council liaison; Alesha Williams, staff liaison; Dawn Carson, citizen

#### Approval of the agenda

Commissioner Paiz motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wattenberg seconded. Motion carried.

#### Approval of the minutes

Commissioner Paiz suggested changed to the March 2026 minutes to reflect "driving retirement", rather than "transportation retirement". Commissioner Brownell motioned to amend the minutes as suggested and approve with amendment. Commissioner Wattenberg seconded. Motion carried.

### 2. COMMUNICATION FROM GUESTS

#### Citizens Communications

Ms. Carson, former chief of EL Fire Department, introduced herself and discussed her current path of earning her Master's Degree in Social Work. She discussed that she is participating in the Seniors Commission meeting, Prime Time programs, and interviewing participants for a class project.

### 3. COMMUNICATION

#### Presentation by Chief Jennifer Brown, ELPD

Chief Brown presented the transparency page soon to be published on the City website and requested feedback from the Commissioners. She also shared

some of the outreach efforts in the department including providing statistical and comparison data at discussion only City Council meetings and launching a monthly newsletter. She provided updates on staffing in the department and responded to commissioner inquiries related to traffic signal issues at intersection of Hagadorn and Haslett Roads and housing shortage effect on officer recruitment.

#### **City Council Liaison**

Councilmember Meadows announced his appointment as Chair of Tri-County Office on Aging and discussed the upcoming agenda for City Council meeting, highlighting the presentation on regulations for diverse housing.

#### **Chair's Comments**

Chair Bouchard-Wyant announced her participation in the Citizen's Police Academy, expressing that this has been a valuable opportunity so far and encouraging participation by others who might be interested.

### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Age Friendly Communities Update**

Commissioner Levande announced that AARP will be present at the City Council meeting to award plaques recognizing the outstanding work done to update the AFC plan. He noted that Landon Bartley, Chief City Planner, has been great at handling the process and involving everyone in the plan.

#### **Friends of East Lansing Seniors Update**

Commissioner Goddeeris did not have updates to provide at this time. The Friend's Board will next meet on Thursday, May 14 at 10 a.m. in the Prime Time conference room.

#### **Generations Connect Update**

Commissioner Wattenberg updated the commission on the recent Spring Fling held. Attendance was approximately 40 participants who have both been paired and some who are still waiting to be paired. This was a social event designed to bring all of the participants together for fun engagement.

#### **Senior Program Updates**

Ms. Williams provided an update on progress in the current and upcoming quarters. She provided details on the Holistic Health Series and several new programs beginning in the Summer quarter.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **FY27 Senior Department Budget Presentation**

Ms. Williams presented to proposed FY27 budget for Seniors Department, noting price changes, use of fund balance, and process changes that will reflect efforts to stabilize the department budget.

Chair Bouchard-Wyant inquired about opportunities for virtual programs offered to seniors who are not able to leave their homes, but want to participate. Ms. Williams discussed plans for how to incorporate virtual options and took suggestions on programs that may be compatible with this idea. Commissioner Paiz revisited discussion of considering a "members only" week of registration as an incentive for membership to Prime Time.

## **6. PLANNING**

### **Strategic Priorities / Committee Reports**

Commissioner Paiz announced her acquisition of a list from LARA of transportation organizations in the state of Michigan who are licensed to carry one to eight passengers. This list will be used to establish a single resource of transportation options and details on services, cost, and more. She has also made contact with CATA paratransit representatives to participate in the upcoming Transportation Fair.

## **7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Councilmember Meadows initiated conversations regarding the upcoming Rummage Sale and Recycle Rama events. Commissioners provided historical context on these programs and services for door to door pick up of items seniors want to get rid of. Ms. Williams noted that seniors were offered door to door pick up of items for the Recycle Rama in both 2024 and 2025. Despite increased efforts to advertise and promote this opportunity, there was only one senior who took advantage of the offer each year. Commissioner Paiz suggested consideration of collaboration with Meridian Township for future recycle/collection events.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Levande motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brownell seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.