

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

December 6, 2006  
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E -120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christina Coulter, Lynne Robinson, Jim Messner, Stephen Lam, Eileen Putter, Berta Seltzer, Catherine Brallier, Dwayne Dilley, Diana Thompson, Howard Katz, Marjorie Todd, Gary Dickerman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Valentina Kiselev, Eve Stern, Eileen Rasnack

STAFF PRESENT: Cathy VonWald, Alex O'Reilly, Department of Parks and Community Services

OTHERS PRESENT: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Chair Robinson who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Valentina Kiselev, Eve Stern and Eileen Rasnack.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 8, 2007

Ms. Thompson called attention to the third paragraph on Page 2 and suggested that during the meeting clarification was offered which indicated the clinics serve everyone over the age of 65, which is not what the paragraph says. She proposed that the sentence "In 1999 and 2003 two senior clinics were created for 100 percent Medicare patients 65 years old and older and include social services" should be revised to read "In 1999 and 2003 two senior clinics were created for patients 65 years old and older and include social services."

Following a short discussion, it was agreed the sentence should read "In 1999 and 2003 two senior clinics were created for 100 percent Medicare and Medicaid patients 65 years old and older and include social services."

**Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Putter. Second was by Ms. Seltzer and the motion carried unanimously.**

The committee took a few moments to celebrate Ms. VonWald's birthday.

3. DISCUSSION

A. *Aging in Place* – Video and Powerpoint

Mr. Dickerman explained that the presentation came from the Statewide gathering of Area Agencies on Aging that he and Ms. VonWald attended. He noted that according to the forecasts, another 1.3 million people will live in the Puget Sound region by 2040. That population growth will pose challenges for different disciplines in the community, including transportation and housing. The information contained in the powerpoint included best practices, the factors that will affect everyone, and the benefits of having a healthy community. It also had information regarding the need for each person to have their own medical records in electronic form.

It was noted that the information in the presentation can be modified as needed and used by the Network as an effective tool.

Mr. Katz suggested the Network could benefit from having the state Attorney General visit and share information regarding his investigation into the abuse and exploitation of older adults. It was agreed that the issue should be discussed at the retreat. Ms. VonWald said consideration has been given to having the Network host a community information fair in the near future. Having Bill Morton and Rob McKenna as keynote speakers would be a good draw.

Ms. Thompson said the King County prosecuting attorney's office has a focus on elder abuse and their information would be helpful to have shared. Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly added that the Bellevue police department also has an interest in the subject.

Ms. VonWald suggested the powerpoint, adapted as necessary, could serve as an introduction to the Network and the topics being worked on by the group. Mr. Dickerman said it is the sort of tool that could be used as a loop on a television at a gathering. Chair Robinson said Mercer Island is talking about developing a network on aging and the presentation would be good for them to see. In addition, the support services subcommittee has plans to meet with some neighborhood liaisons and the information would be good for them to see as well.

Ms. VonWald previewed for the Network a video done by the Kirkland Senior Council on aging in place. Mr. Katz suggested the information presented was too technical for the average viewer but would be appropriate for vendors who offer services for seniors.

Ms. Todd suggested the information is good for heightening awareness for physicians and home health professionals, as well as those who build specific senior-related products. It would be a good program to run on BTV. Mr. Lam said the video would be useful for case managers.

It was agreed that how to use the video and BTV should be a topic of discussion at the retreat.

#### B. Downtown Circulator Study and Current Plan

Mr. Dickerman said the transportation subcommittee intends to go before the City Council in January to discuss elements deemed to be missing in the downtown circulator program as it is currently envisioned.

Mr. Dickerman explained that the city studied the idea of a downtown circulation in 2002 and determined that it would be too expensive and would not have sufficient ridership given the population and employment figures in the downtown core. The recent growth in the downtown has brought the issue to the table again.

Ms. Seltzer said the purpose of the circulator, according to the current study, is to give residents, employees and employers an additional transportation choice. The city is currently conversing with King County Metro regarding funding for the circulator; if the program goes forward, the funding will come from the Transit NOW program. Metro is entertaining some 17 proposals for allocating the Transit NOW funds, of which the downtown circulator is one.

Ms. Seltzer said the route submitted by the city to Metro does not mesh with what the transportation subcommittee believes the route should be. Metro will be able to suggest modifications to the proposed route or offer a completely different route. If the program is selected to go forward, it will have to have money available from a secondary source for a period of five years, and the program will have to be evaluated at about the halfway point.

One of the concerns of the transportation subcommittee is that the proposed route does not include the hospital campus. Metro's answer is that they will have a dedicated bay at the transit center with buses leaving every ten minutes for the hospital.

Ms. VonWald asked if the service will be free to riders. Ms. Seltzer said the service from the transit center to the hospital will not be free. It has not yet been determined, however, if there will be a fee for the circulator itself. Ms. O'Reilly added that at one point it was discussed that collecting fares for the circulator could be more trouble than it would be worth.

Answering a question asked by Ms. Thompson, Ms. Seltzer said the proposed route does serve the library from NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Katz pointed out that a great deal of new development is occurring along 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. That area should be served by the circulator. Ms. Seltzer said the area can be accessed from 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, so if the circulator goes that far riders will be able to enter that new complex, which will take up an entire city block.

Ms. Brallier said the transportation subcommittee came away from the community conversation focused on transportation needs with some definite views of what is needed in the city, and the downtown circulator was at the top of the list. It was not, however, the only thing on the list, especially when the focus is on the needs of seniors. Getting people from their homes to the bus is one identified need, and of course that is what the Dial A Ride program will address. The Bus Buddy program, which will team people how to use the bus system, will address another need.

Mr. Dilley said he was told by Senior Transportation Planner Maria Koengeter that the entire circulator project is estimated to cost \$1.1 million over a five-year period. One third of the funding will need to come from the city; the balance will come from King County Metro. The proposal is for a two-way service in the downtown loop operating 12 hours per day on weekdays, 10 hours per day on Saturdays, and nine hours per day on Sundays. As envisioned, the program will begin in September 2008. There will be only one additional opportunity to influence the route; if increased by just a little over what has been proposed, the senior population will be much better served.

Chair Robinson said the most important thing will be getting the downtown circulator in operation. At the halfway point when the program is revisited, it might be possible to revise the route.

Ms. VonWald stressed the importance for the transportation subcommittee of the Network to offer comments at the January meeting. It would be appropriate to voice support for the downtown circulator program generally and to express the opinion of the group relative to what the optimal route should be.

Chair Robinson suggested that if the issue is to be really pushed at some point, the subcommittee should seek the backing of the hospital with signatures. Ms. Brallier said all of that type of information is available from the community conversation and the Human Services Needs Update.

Motion to authorize the transportation subcommittee to speak on behalf of the full Network on Aging at the January City Council meeting was made by Mr. Katz. Second was by Ms. Putter and the motion carried unanimously.

Noting that he had to leave, Mr. Katz suggested putting off the election of officers until the retreat in January. Ms. VonWald explained that the Network bylaws call for the election of officers in December, but allowed that the Network could vote to temporarily suspend the bylaws as they relate to the election of officers.

Motion to suspend the bylaws temporarily as they relate to the election of officers was made by Mr. Katz. Second was by Ms. Brallier and the motion carried unanimously.

#### C. Retreat Planning

Chair Robinson reminded the Network that the retreat has been set for the morning of January 10.

Ms. VonWald said she, Chair Robinson and Mr. Dickerman are scheduled to meet with Sharon Carlson, the consultant who was at the original retreat and who will be assisting with the January 10 retreat. She thanked everyone who submitted ideas for items to be covered at the retreat.

Chair Robinson said each subcommittee will be asked to review what their goals were for 2007 and what they accomplished. Ms. VonWald said that information will also be made a part of the annual report to the Parks and Community Services Board and the City Council.

Ms. VonWald said there should be a discussion about mission, bylaws, and goal setting for 2008.

#### D. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2008

This item was moved to the agenda for the retreat.

#### 4. BREAK

A break was not taken.

#### 5. STAFF REPORT

Ms. O'Reilly informed the Network that the 2008-2009 Needs Update is out in draft form. She stressed that the document is a reference tool not a plan. It addresses a variety of service areas and special populations, including older adults. She thanked the Network for its participation in the community conversations and in offering feedback on various issues. The document will be used in planning for the next round of human services funding allocations. The document will be presented to the Council on January 22. With their blessing, the document will be printed for general distribution and posting to the city's website.

Ms. O'Reilly provided the group copies of the executive summary and called attention to the area on older adults. She reviewed the list of key trends, including changing demographics, long-term care options, medical care issues, the fact that many older adults are working longer, and transportation needs.

Ms. O'Reilly invited members from the Network on Aging to attend the January 15 meeting of the Human Services Commission at which the Needs Update document will be finalized. She noted that the document is still in draft form and any recommended revisions can still be made as of that meeting.

Motion to send Network on Aging representatives to the Human Services Commission meeting on January 15 was made by Ms. Thompson. Second was by Ms. Brallier and the motion carried unanimously.

The Network members were provided with copies of the monthly report of the parks planning staff.

Ms. VonWald reported that she attended the advisory council meeting for Aging and Disability Services in November.

The Network was informed that senior lobby day in Olympia has been slated for January 22. Ms. VonWald said she will share more information about the opportunity at a later date.

A senior housing conference is scheduled for November 2008 at the Washington State Convention Center. That may be something the Network will want to plug into.

Ms. VonWald noted that along with Ms. Rasnack and Ms. O'Reilly she attended the Eastside Affordable Housing Forum on December 5 presented by the cities of Bellevue, Redmond and Kirkland along with DASH, ARCH, Habitat for Humanity and several others. She said there was some very good information presented and that she will make available to the Network.

## 6. KIRKLAND SENIOR COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

It was discovered that a Network representative had not attended the most recent meeting of the Kirkland Senior Council. Ms. Brallier said she will be attending their December 11 meeting. Ms. VonWald reminded the group that the joint meeting is scheduled for January.

## 7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Transportation

Mr. Dickerman said the subcommittee is continuing to work on several initiatives, include the Dial A Ride and Bus Buddy programs, both of which have been approved and are awaiting their launching. The subcommittee is also focused on the downtown circulator.

Mr. Dickerman said the subcommittee intends to develop a brochure during 2008.

### B. Housing

Ms. Todd said the housing subcommittee has been spending time contacting housing providers in the city and collating the data. The response from adult family home providers has been very low, so additional calls have been made.

### C. Support Services

Ms. Coulter reported that at its last meeting the support services subcommittee reviewed issues involved with the Home Sweet Home Fair in an attempt to make the next one even better. The focus was on parking for attendees, the length of the event, and the need for a keynote speaker instead of several presentations in breakout sessions. The subcommittee recommends that the Network participate in the 2008 event.

Motion to have the Network on Aging participate in the 2008 Home Sweet Home Fair event was made by Ms. Brallier. Second was by Mr. Dickerman and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Coulter said the subcommittee has plans to meet with neighborhood liaisons after the retreat in January to discuss the best way to approach the neighborhood associations to get gatekeeper training brought to them. Brochures about the program have been acquired from Senior Services and will be distributed. She said the powerpoint presentation made earlier in the meeting would be a good thing to include.

Ms. Coulter said the subcommittee also discussed options for getting vital information into the homes of seniors. The idea is to have a single form filled out with information needed by emergency personnel, and a document that gives instructions when a person is incapacitated and unable to speak for themselves, called the physicians orders for life-sustaining treatment (POLST).

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

9. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

It was agreed that Ms. VonWald would make copies of the powerpoint presentation available to all Network members, and that anyone with suggested revisions should send them to Ms. VonWald.

10. ADJOURN

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.