

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

November 3, 2011
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-112

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Englund, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Howard Katz, Hannah Kimball, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Cindy Sharek, Diana Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jullie Gray, Merle Keeney, Lynne Robinson, Blake Werner

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathy Iverson, Kirkland Senior Council; Madeline McKenna, Rob McKenna for Governor Campaign

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Rasnack who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Jullie Gray, Merle Keeney, Lynne Robinson and Blake Werner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 6, 2011

Ms. Thompson said that on page 3, 2nd to last paragraph, the sentence "Ms. Thompson stated that she gave a presentation regarding . . . " should be changed to read Ms. Thompson stated that she and Lynn Robinson gave a presentation regarding . . . ". The motion to change the minutes as stated was seconded. The change was approved unanimously. The motion to approve the minutes as changed was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Housing (reported by Cathy VonWald)

Five BNOA Housing Committee members (Ms. Seltzer, Ms. Heyden, Ms. Kimball, Ms. Robinson, and Ms. VonWald) went to Federal Way with three City of Bellevue Planning Department staff to visit the Senior City Apartments that were built next to the Federal Way

Transit Center. Senior City was designed to be transit-oriented development so it was built with limited parking. There are 61 units and 27 parking spaces. The majority of the residents has their own vehicles and don't use transit, so parking has become a real problem. Federal Way Transit Center is often filled to capacity. With office staff, caregivers, and residents the parking has not been sufficient. Additionally, the transit center has been an area for recent crime so the Korean Women's Association (KWA) staff have worked closely with the Police Department including providing office space in their building for the officers. The project was developed and is managed by the KWA. They are a non-profit organization and they have a care giving arm. They do have some social services there on site and talked about doing meals but they have not implemented that yet. They get people to the Federal Way Senior Center for meals and activities. The project was funded by HUD, Housing Trust Fund, King County Housing Finance, City of Federal Way Community Development Block Grant, Korean Women's Association, and Sound Transit, Department of Energy Conservation Grant and others. Sound Transit was the property owner. Senior City is not restricted to only Korean residents; however, currently 95% of the residents are of Korean descent. They are currently full and have a waiting list.

Ms. Rasnack asked if the City of Bellevue is looking at this type of housing by park-n-rides. Ms. VonWald stated that the Bel-Red Corridor may be a good location for Transit Oriented Development but we will have to stay tuned as that area develops.

Ms. Thompson asked if there was any new information on accessory dwelling units. Ms. VonWald stated that it has not been on the Planning Commissions agenda but she will continue to watch for it.

B. Outreach (Jeanne Grote reporting)

The last meeting was cancelled but the next meeting is scheduled for November 21st.

The BNOA had a resource table at the Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC) Resource Fair at the North Bellevue Community Center on October 13th. It was very well attended with approximately 200-300 visitors. CISC provided a translator for our table and others. Mr. Katz asked how large the Chinese population is in Bellevue? Maybe we should have the Vial of Life perhaps be available in Asian languages. Ms. VonWald stated that they have had Vials available in other languages but there is a problem regarding responders being able to read them in other languages.

Ms. Grote stated she went to Senior Lobby Conference in Tacoma along with Diana Thompson and Eileen Rasnack. She also attended the two day Elder Abuse Conference in Burien. Ms. Gray attended that conference as well. She said there were very good speakers: Dan Satterburg, the Manhattan Attorney General, the State of Miami Attorney General and Maine's Attorney General.

Ms. Thompson then asked if they had sufficient amounts of the Vials of Life left and Ms. Grote told her yes.

Ms. Thompson then spoke about a Legal clinic she attended where the Polst Order form was discussed. The legal clinic stated that these are for people that are just terminally ill and are not

appropriate for otherwise healthy people. Doctors complete the Polst and it is required in assisted living facilities. Ms. Thompson stated that it is done incorrectly and shouldn't be done for those not terminally ill. Ms. Rasnack stated that it might be useful to have someone come and talk to the group about this to learn more information. Ms. VonWald said she would look into that.

C. Advocacy (Diana Thompson reporting)

Ms. Thompson stated that she wanted to review the Legislative Forum and also funding of the Ombudsmen program. She stated that she would not be able to attend the Eastside Human Services Forum meeting on November 8th, 11:30-12:30 and we need someone from BNOA to attend. Ms. Rasnack was going to look at her schedule and Ms. Grote also indicated she could possibly attend.

Ms. Katz said that the group needs to discuss hospital observation. Ms. Gray sent an e-mail to the group regarding it and the bill in regards to it. Ms. VonWald said that we need more information and the Advocacy Group will talk about it at the next meeting.

Ms. Thompson said the Advocacy Committee strictly worked on the Legislative Forum at their most recent meetings. The forum was attended by 40-50 people including five legislators (two from the 45th District, two from the 41st District, and one from the 32nd District). Ms. Thompson went on to say that the Legislators were very receptive to older adults needs, but they also have lots of other needs. Funds need to be cut. All stated that additional revenue won't stop all of the cuts from happening. It was suggested that all new initiatives requiring new services should indicate where the funds will come from. Larry Springer said he supports the initiative process but it needs to be tweaked to get it back to its original intention.

Ms. Thompson asked Ms. Sharek about the refreshments and whether they were sufficient. Ms. Sharek said they seemed to be. At the end they were almost out of all coffee, but everything worked out well.

Mr. Merriman said that the invitation for the Legislative Forum went out to everyone three months ago and he was disappointed that there were not more members of the Bellevue City Council in attendance. Kirkland had 4 City Councilmembers in attendance. There was a motion to write a letter to Bellevue councilmembers saying that they were missed and sharing the packet with them. The motion was seconded. The motion passed with one nay vote. Ms. VonWald stated that we have the packets from the Legislative Forum that we are going to give to them and we can just attach a short note to them. Ms. VonWald will draft a note and send it out for comments. Ms. Kimball stated it should include the note that the Legislative Forum was a rich and substantive interchange with legislators. Ms. VonWald stated that she feels strongly that the Council is very supportive of the Network.

Mr. Katz stated that we should have had copies of the speaking points available at the Forum and suggested that they should be sent to those who did not attend.

Ms. Thompson said that we need to do thank you letters to those that attended and send speaking points and presentations to all (even those that were not there). It was discussed that the Advocacy Committee would compose the thank you letter at their next meeting. Ms. Seltzer said that the Advocacy Committee doesn't meet for over a week and she thinks that the thank you notes should go out right away. Ms. Thompson said that she can draft the thank you and send it out to the Advocacy Committee members to comment and approve.

Ms. VonWald said thank you for all of the hard work. The Legislative Forum was a great event – great attendance – and very successful.

Mr. Englund said he wanted to raise the issue of “underlying reasons” and references being made that people do not trust the government. Distrust is a big part of our underlying budget problems. He suggested that it should be the objective/responsibility of the government to try to regain this trust. We wouldn't have these problems if we had this trust. Ms. Thompson said that you get discontent because special interests don't get what they want and it creates different factions. Mr. Englund said we should advocate building trust. Mr. Katz said the cause of distrust is the great recession. Mr. Megargel suggested we should look to see how King County is dealing with budget cuts and learn from it. Ms. O'Reilly stated that Roger Goodman stated at the Legislative Forum that he was very supportive of human services and they sponsor many of these bills. He said they need to be reminded of the impact issues have on the people. Eastside Human Services Forum has a legislative agenda and is gathering information from local agencies to see what the impact of cuts will mean to people. They are gathering county-wide data to show the impact on the community. Mr. Katz stated that during the great depression there was complete faith in the government.

Ms. Thompson talked about the funding of the Ombudsman program. She asked if the Advocacy Committee has the authority to write a letter. Ms. Rasnack noted that the Network has already approved supporting vulnerable adults and this program would fall under that. Ms. Thompson said we should write our state legislators to explain how this is hurting older adults.

Madeline McKenna said that the Legislative Forum was a well done event and it was well attended. She wanted to congratulate everyone and wish us luck with the legislative session.

BREAK

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

A. Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (Alex O'Reilly reporting)

Ms. O'Reilly stated that she went to the Transportation Department Open House on November 1st which focused on the Downtown Transportation Plan. There is a new planning process kicking off so this is a good time to give input. Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond are interested in a circulator van, which has been on the EERC work plan for some time. There was a plan years ago that was put on hold because of budget cuts. On November 9th there will be an Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative meeting from 1:00-3:00. The Senior Planner is invited and we want to initiate conversations with them as to what would benefit older adults and people

with disabilities. They will be doing a survey and we can possibly have an impact on what questions are included. It would also be a good idea to have them attend a Housing Committee meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting and Ms. O'Reilly will keep everyone posted.

This afternoon from 1:00-3:00 at Peter Kirk Community Center there will be an Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative Workshop on community preparedness. With the wind storm a couple of years ago it was noted that people couldn't get from their homes to the shelters, along with other issues. You are all invited.

Eastside Human Services Forum is having the Annual meeting on December 7th at Peter Kirk Community Center from 2:00-4:00. It will be discussing Collective Impact – people working together for common goals for the betterment of community, i.e., Eastside Pathways, etc. Also a representative from Hopelink will be discussing Nourishing Networks – working within community for those that are hungry in our community. Mr. Katz said he also attended the Transportation Open House and had recently been in Bloomington where he saw some new transportation features. The street crossings tell you where you are located and tell you when to cross. There is new technology happening in transportation in other cities.

- B. City of Bellevue Initiatives. None
- C. Eastside Human Services Forum (already covered)
- D. Eastside Time Bank (reported by Jeanne Grote)

We are working on more sponsorships for the Eastside Time Bank and also working with the new time banks in Shoreline and Issaquah. It has been a great experience. It really gets the generations working together.

- E. Aging & Disability Services Advisory Council

Ms. VonWald stated that she attended Senior Lobby Day and the state-wide meeting of advisory councils the day before Lobby Day. The Older American's Act came up and is going to be reauthorized. It is Senator Murray who is sitting on this committee. The Advocacy Committee should advocate for continued funding for this. We have until the end of the year to give input. Members were encouraged to look up the Older American's Act and make comment if they see fit.

STAFF REPORTS (reported by Ms. VonWald)

Gwen Rousseau sent demographic information by neighborhoods via e-mail and Ms. VonWald forwarded it to all BNOA members. It is interesting to see the shift in the population. Sammamish, East Lake Hills and Crossroads currently have the largest older adult population.

Ms. VonWald again said a big thank you again for everyone who worked on and attended the Legislative Forum.

Mr. Katz asked if we are doing anything to get Mercer Island included in the eastside older network? Ms VonWald said that they have a senior advisory board and they are aware of our group. There are different levels of support and interest in each city. It might be a good idea to have a follow up to the Eastside Dialogue through the EHSF sometime in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

The Nominating Committee met twice to review applications and interview applicants. There were four applicants and all four were interviewed.

Ms. Kimball moved to approve the appointment of those returning members whose appointments were up: Ms. Rasnack, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Katz, Mr. Englund, Ms. Heyden and Ms. Seltzer for a two year term through 2013. The motion was seconded and was passed unanimously.

For the two vacant positions, two applicants were chosen: Terri Wilson, works in Home Care; and Janet Zielasko, who currently works for the Northshore Senior Center. A motion was made to approve the appointment of these two new members for a two year term ending 2013. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Madeleine McKenna said thank you for being invited to the meeting. Her dad, Rob McKenna wanted to be here to report on his older adult initiatives. He is focused on consumer protection, identify theft, older adults protection, etc. He worked on the legislation for vulnerable adult protection, had a Summit – legislation was passed in regard to vulnerable adults. His office is always open to calls. He works with Adult Protective Services, which received 15,000 calls last year. His office is a resource. He is interested in meeting with older adult communities to hear issues. He is interested in partnering with you.

She asked one question, which you can reply to via her e-mail. “What is the one thing that you think Rob McKenna could do as governor to improve quality of life for older adults?”

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

December – Some business - Year End Celebration

There will be a potluck and a white elephant gift exchange (\$5 of under – wrapped)

Ms. VonWald is bringing the coffee.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.