

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

May 5, 2011
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-112

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Merle Keeney, Lynne Robinson, Blake Werner

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Alina Aaron and Michelle Zeidman, Hopelink; Sandra Hayes, Kirkland Senior Council; Joan Betsy Kurasch, Grab Bar Solutions LLC

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chair Rasnack who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Merle Keeney, Lynne Robinson and Blake Werner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 7, 2011

Ms. Thompson stated she would like to revise the minutes on page 5 in the 7th paragraph. It states "It is written by Senator Rodney Tom". This sentence should be deleted from the minutes. Motion to approve the minutes with that sentence deleted was made, seconded and was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Housing

Lynne Robinson was not present to give a report so Ms. VonWald reported for the committee. She stated that the Universal Design presentation to the City Council will be on Monday, May 16th @ 8:00pm. Ms. Robinson and Tom Minty will make the presentation. Mr. Englund asked what the objective of this Universal Design presentation is. Ms. VonWald stated that the objective of the presentation is education for the City Council.

Ms. VonWald stated that the housing website hosted by ARCH is being worked on diligently by the UW students and they are trying working out the public outreach portion of the project.

B. Outreach (reported by Jeanne Grote)

The Outreach Committee met on April 18th. The group has contacted Captain Tim Thibert with questions regarding the 911 non-essential calls. He is going to get data and we'll facilitate a meeting with Fire, Police, Code Enforcement so that we can concentrate on Tim's data from NorCom to determine how we can reduce non-essential 911.

Ms. Grote, Mr. Katz and Margaret Chou attended the Senior Services fundraiser breakfast on April 15.

The Eastside pilot for TimeBank is gaining momentum. The first potluck at North Bellevue Community Center was reasonably well attended.

The upcoming new business is:

May 2 – City of Bellevue's Older Americans Month proclamation was received by Ms. Gray at the City Council meeting. We wish more folks had attended the ceremony

June 6 – City Council World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation. **June 15** is World Edler Abuse Awareness Day

May 18 – Aging Your Way Eastside forum from 5:30-8:30 at Overlake Christian Church, Redmond

May 18 – ARCH is doing a housing tour in which Ms. VonWald has sent the flyer to all members. Ms. Grote passed the flyer around the table. It was stated that this is a great, informational tour put on by Arthur Sullivan that hopefully members will be able to attend.

June 25 – Strawberry Festival – excellent chance for outreach for two days.

Diana Thompson volunteered to draft an article in regard to Elder Abuse for the Bellevue Reporter. Ms. Thompson stated that they will be doing a Press Release since it is hard to get article space. Ms. VonWald sent the article to the Parks & Community Services Department Public Information Officer.

Mr. Megargel will take the “best practices” document and is evaluating it against what’s happening in other cities.

Ms. VonWald stated that Pat Mahoney from the State Council on Aging went to Hawaii recently and met with their Area Agency on Aging. He stated that Washington State is ahead of Hawaii in many respects as it relates to services and programs for older adults. Cathy will get the Hawaii contact information to Bob for follow up.

The Outreach Committee would like to facilitate a meeting between Evergreen, Overlake, 211 and Group Health to check in on progress, challenges, coordination and communication.

EASTSIDE EASY RIDER COLLABORATIVE PRESENTATION

Ms. VonWald presented Michelle Zeidman and Alina Aaron.

Ms. Zeidman started the presentation for the King County Mobility Coalition. She reported that the group was formed under the leadership of Seattle-King County Area Agency on Aging in 2006 with the help of Federal funding and Puget Sound Regional Council.

There are 28 members that are rural & transportation providers, non-profit agencies serving special needs clients, and system users.

The vision is to have a world class transportation network that allows all people to move freely around King County and the Puget Sound region.

The goals are to: 1) put people first, 2) move people efficiently, and 3) move more people. Achievements are strategic planning & coalition building; community outreach; and local & regional planning.

Projects currently underway are: immigrant & refugee community conversations & summit, options for people with temporary transportation needs, transportation brochures & maps (E. King County, Seattle & South Snohomish County), transportation riders storybook.

King County Mobility Coalition is affiliated with are Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (since 2005) and North King County Mobility Coalition (since 2010). The website for King County Mobility Coalition is www.kingcounty.gov/mobilitycoalition.

Alina Aaron is the Mobility Coordinator for the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (EERC). It was formed in 2005 and inspired by national coordination efforts.

The EERC mission is to identify & initiate coordinated, creative and sustainable ways to assist older adults, persons with disabilities and low-income individuals on the Eastside attain a better quality of life by increasing their transportation options.

Some of the accomplishments of EERC are: the Bellevue EZ Rider Connector (Dial-a-Ride Service), the Travel Ambassador Program, Human Services providers transportation forums,

Mobility Manager for Eastside communities, Bus Buddy Program, increasing mobility options for older adults on the Eastside Report, Eastside Community Conversations, Eastside Transportation Needs Survey.

Currently the EERC is creating a website. The website will include EERC information and also Eastside transportation resources.

A lot of work has been done to identify what the challenges on the eastside are in regard to transportation. Bellevue Network on Aging has contributed a lot of hard work to help fill the needs and gaps.

Ms. Thompson asked about the Bus Buddy program. Ms. Zeidman stated that it is no longer being funded. They weren't able to get Federal money. King County Metro has taken on some of the Bus Buddy services.

Ms. Thompson then asked about the EZ Rider Connector bus program. Ms. Zeidman stated that they have had difficulties being funded by the Federal government. Last February they started transporting people. For Federal funding we would've had to reapply for funds six months after the program started (September). At that time the program's numbers were down, so they didn't apply. To date they have now provided 300 trips. The numbers after September really picked up and hopefully we can reapply again but we would have to do a whole new re-launch. Ms. VonWald stated that N. Bellevue Community Center had just been added as a stop for this program. Several participants have taken advantage of this transportation option.

Mr. Katz stated that the Sound Transit East Link hospital station is at Whole Foods. He was wondering who will take responsibility to shuttle the people from the station to the hospitals. Ms. VonWald stated that this may be part of the station area planning coming up in the future. Ms Aaron also stated that it might be possible for agencies to partner up to provide that service.

Ms. Thompson asked what the program cost is for EZ Rider Connector? Ms. Zeidman stated that they don't really have a total cost because some of the expenses are absorbed internally through Hopelink.

Mr. Englund stated that the focus on needs is not provided by Metro. Do you see turf wars between agencies to provide services? Ms. Zeidman stated it is an ongoing challenge to spread acknowledgements and programs around. Like any other business, to stay alive there will be competition. Stakeholders need to be brought together to break down barriers. Ms. VonWald stated that the collaboration has really been a testament to everyone working together. Who can provide the service most efficiently is the common goal.

Mr. Katz stated that Wellsprings is a large organization and was wondering whether they participate with these groups? Ms. Zeidman stated that Wellsprings currently doesn't participate but if Mr. Katz can call them to give them background information on the groups then she will follow up and call them.

BREAK

COMMITTEE REPORTS – continuation

C. Advocacy (presented by Diana Thompson)

Ms. Thompson first wanted to thank Ms. Kimball for bringing the coffee. Ms. Sharek will bring it to the June meeting and Ms. Thompson said she would bring it to the July meeting.

On April 11th, Ms. Grote, Mr. Katz, Ms. Rasnack and Ms. Thompson met with Representative Reichert regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Ms. Thompson thanked Mr. Katz for arranging the meeting. Ms. Thompson said he listened to her thoughts on CDBG funding but she didn't think he would take any action on it. Also, since that meeting the CDBG funding has been decided and there will be a decrease of 16% in CDBG funds to those who receive them. Ms. O'Reilly stated that Bellevue doesn't have the official letter stating the exact amount they will receive but the contracts funded with CDBG funds will be adjusted accordingly. The money received by CDBG is based on a formula. The formula for how much money a community receives is based on how many low and moderate income residents there are in a community. The Human Services Commission will be adjusting the budget depending upon the final amount that the City of Bellevue receives.

Mr. Katz stated that Representative Reichert started talking about his mother and it turns out she passed away the Thursday after the meeting. Ms. Thompson said that she sent him a personal note regarding the passing of his mother. Ms. VonWald said that when he came to North Bellevue Community Center on Monday she gave him a sympathy card from the Bellevue Network on Aging and the North Bellevue Senior Advisory Board. When he visited NBCC, he actually took part in the yoga class.

Ms. Thompson stated that the success of the meeting was that Representative Reichert learned about the kinds of social services available. Ms. Rasnack stated that he said he would be adding someone to his staff that was going to be involved in senior issues. It was stated that it was a good exchange when he came to North Bellevue Community Center. People were there waiting for him with questions they had prepared.

Ms. Thompson said that at the next Advocacy meeting they need to talk about timing. Things happen so quickly in the legislative area that the timing is very important. She also stated that she went to Olympia yesterday. She went to a lunch meeting where all of the senior lobbyists were in attendance. She also had a meeting with Senator Tom. She talked to him about Bill 5092 which regulates adult family homes. Bill 5092 has passed in the House. It didn't pass by a tremendous amount of votes. It is currently in the Senate. If anyone wants to write legislators in regard to this bill then you can contact Ms. Thompson for information. (Later in the meeting she stated that you need to refer to it as House Bill #1277).

While in Olympia, Ms. Thompson gave a presentation in support of a fee increase adult family homes. Ingrid McDonald, from AARP, was there to answer many of the detailed questions that were asked. AARP feels the fee should be raised to cover the actual cost.

Ms Thompson also testified on the Bill to amend 1053 (Tim Eyman's initiative) which indicates that tax exemptions would not be covered by 1053. In her opinion, this would free up more funding statewide. Ms Thompson was speaking on behalf of herself not the BNOA.

Ms. Rasnack stated that Evergreen Court, an affordable senior housing facility in Bellevue, is facing foreclosure. Ms. Gray stated that they currently have housing available for Medicaid residents, which are few and far between. It also currently has assisted living available for private pay. The City Council has been asked to contribute 1.2M to allow Evergreen Court to make some building repairs and provide reserved.

Ms. Gray made a motion that the Bellevue Network on Aging advocate for low income seniors having accessibility to affordable housing that is also available to Medicaid residents. The Advocacy Committee will gather more information to determine how best to advocate. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The Advocacy Committee will move forward and look into this issue at their next meeting.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

There were no community partnership reports at this time.

OTHER BOARDS/COMMISSION REPORTS

Ms. Gray said she is involved in a planning group for the five year plan for Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC). It is a national movement designed to streamline access to services. The model is the Senior Information and Assistance service but also provides information and support to people with disabilities & children all in one place. It would streamline information and provide a high quality link to services. It would include any service whether public or private. It would be a one stop shop for people to find the services that they need. It is an overwhelming amount of information.

There was a discussion on how to market it to the public. Pierce County has a resource center already that is very successful. They are working to make this the state wide model. They are looking to have other smaller counties do this also.

Mr. Katz stated that there is only one way to do this – not state by state. He thought they should do it at the federal level and information would be provided throughout the United States.

Ms. Gray said that it is hard to provide this huge range of information even within a State. From State to State the laws are different and there is so much information. It is a national movement but each state is trying to make it work in each area.

Ms. Rasnack said that the BNOA has the ADRC on the Federal legislative agenda. Ms. VonWald stated that she had a handout over on the table entitled "Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act". They are hoping that some of this money will help to fund the ADRC's. Ms. Gray said

that they are struggling to fund this. They are trying to be creative and they are open to anything and everything right now.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. VonWald thanked Ms. Gray and Mr. Katz for receiving the Older Americans Month Proclamation at the City Council meeting. Mr. Katz stated that he was disappointed that more members didn't show up in support at the council meeting. On June 6th at 8:00pm there will be a proclamation for Older Adults Elder Abuse month. Please let Ms. VonWald know if you are available to say a few words about Elder Abuse and to receive this proclamation that night. She already has speaking points for the presentation.

Ms. VonWald said that the Medic One Foundation has a new funder for the Vial of Life . . . Bartells. They will get them to us in time for volunteers to assemble them together and for fair season.

Ms. VonWald received an e-mail from Ms. Robinson. Her parents are both having significant health issues and she is asking for a 3-6 month leave of absence. A motion was made to give Ms. Robinson the leave of absence, it was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Sandra Hayes, Kirkland Senior Council, stated that she attended the meeting because she is interested in Evergreen Court. She stated a senior housing facility can't survive on only Medicaid reimbursements in this economy.

Joan Betsy Kurash is with a company (Grab Bar Solutions, Scottsdale, AZ) that installs grab bars. Thought it would be good to see what the Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA) is doing. She said that the BNOA is way above what other cities are doing. She described some of her company's products after Mr. Englund asked about them.

Ms. VonWald said that she heard from Janet Lewine of the Planning & Community Development Department in regard to Universal Design. She said that the County-wide planning policies will be updated for the first time since 1992. In 1992 the Universal Design was not included but it will be included in this update.

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. VonWald stated that nothing was set for next month. Mr. Katz is following up with the Attorney General's office to see when he can attend. Some other possible topics might be: ARCH Housing website (June or July) and an Aging Your Way (Senior Services) Presentation.

Ms. Thompson suggested that we might have someone from human services come and talk about the funds that the city human services have, how they make funding decisions, and how the Human Services Commission works. Ms. VonWald stated that she would talk to Emily Leslie, Human Services Manager about a presentation.

Mr. Katz said that the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club is looking to collaborate with the city in regard to the park property which is on Bellevue Way & 20th (undeveloped park north of NE 12th - the Chapin property). They would like to create a flagship facility on that property which would free up the current site of the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club, at the downtown park, for other uses. The City is currently in discussions about this proposal.

Mr. Megargel reported that he would be willing to work on getting the Bellevue Network on Aging on Facebook. Ms. VonWald said she would check into the city's rules and regulations about this and get back to the group.

ADJOURN

Chair Rasnack adjourned the meeting at 10:35 am