

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

July 9, 2009  
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E -120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynne Robinson, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Dwayne Dilley, Diana Thompson, Howard Katz, Gary Dickerman, Bob Megargel, Hannah Kimball

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Merriman, Heidi Ressler, Jullie Gray

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Janet Zielasko; Barbee Pigott, Kirkland Senior Council

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m. by Chair Robinson who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Bill Merriman, Heidi Ressler and Jullie Gray.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 4, 2009

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Ms. Seltzer. Second was by Mr. Dickerman and the motion carried unanimously.

BELLEVUE AS A MECCA FOR SENIORS

Chair Robinson said in her travels around the region she has found that Bellevue is seen as a Mecca for seniors. She said recently she was speaking to someone on the Mercer Island Senior Council who indicated that services for seniors on the island are not needed since most when they age to a certain point simply move to Bellevue. She said she has been hearing a similar sentiment from others around the region.

The Network members were asked to consider how Bellevue might be affected by the senior focus on the city.

Mr. Dickerman said he would want to know first what is attracting seniors to Bellevue. Mr. Katz suggested that Mercer Island has become a community of younger people. Those who are elderly and who no longer have family close by are choosing to sell their expensive homes and move to Bellevue where there are other seniors and where there are good programs and services for seniors. Bellevue is seeing more and more senior housing options, and has become a new and growing city.

Ms. O'Reilly the most recent data that might be helpful in answering the question would be from the American communities survey. Better data will flow from the 2010 census, but that information will not be in hand for a another year or two.

Mr. Dilley commented that if seniors on Mercer Island are interested in Bellevue senior programs and services, it might be useful to put on a presentation in their community center. Chair Robinson agreed it would be good to get the word out on Mercer Island but suggested meeting with their senior council instead to bring them up to speed. She volunteered to contact them and make the offer.

Ms. Seltzer noted that facilities for seniors in Bellevue, especially in the downtown, have only come online within the last few years. Mercer Island has traditionally had absolutely nothing in the way of apartments or retirement living options for seniors.

Chair Robinson thought it would be useful to offer Mercer Island a community presentation and include a questionnaire focused on where the respondents see themselves moving to in the future and why. If it can be shown that facilities are needed in Bellevue to accommodate more than just current Bellevue senior residents, the Council may want to step up and work toward seeing those facilities provided sooner rather than later.

Ms. O'Reilly informed the group that a workshop is planned July 16 at Crossroads Community Center from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., the focus of which will be on the need for senior housing. She suggested the observation of seniors moving from Mercer Island to Bellevue could be a good one to raise at that meeting as someone there might have some answers.

Chair Robinson suggested the idea should be folded into the workplan to some degree to see what can be developed. The list of questions in need of answers includes why the seniors are coming to Bellevue; how the influx will impact the city and its resources; what planning needs to occur; and how can the growing population of seniors be protected.

The majority of Network members agreed to throw the issue into the workplan mix and to begin the process of gathering information, and to set up a presentation for the Mercer Island Senior Council.

#### KIRKLAND SENIOR COUNCIL'S "SWAY: INFLUENCING YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS" DVD PRESENTATION

Barbee Pigott with the Kirkland Senior Council said the group presented a seminar featuring Nancy Amaedei from the University of Washington, the focus of which was on influencing elected officials. A city photographer videoed the event. She said the recordings were edited and put on DVD for distribution; it is also available on the City of Kirkland website.

The DVD was aired for the Network.

Chair Robinson proposed airing the video on BTV. Ms. Pigott said her organization would not object to that provided it received the credit. Ms. Thompson also suggested providing a link to the Kirkland Senior Council website from the Network on Aging website. It was agreed to check with the legal department first.

Mr. Katz said he recently attended a forum for candidates for the King County Executive position along with Chair Robinson and Ms. Thompson. Those attending the forum were from non-profit organizations. He said they submitted five or six questions to be asked of the candidates, and when the questions came up Dow Constantine, the candidate answering first one, could not answer the question and so changed the subject.

Chair Robinson said she spoke with Mr. Constantine after the event and received his apology for not answering the questions about senior issues appropriately. He was able to show that he cares very deeply about senior issues.

Mr. Katz said he provided candidate Susan Hutchison with a copy of the questions following the event so she would know what issues older adults face. Chair Robinson said she did the same with Dow Constantine and two others. Ms. Thompson suggested giving the questions to all of the candidates.

Ms. O'Reilly informed the group that a Eastside Human Services Forum on July 8 sent out a series of questions to all of the King County Executive candidates. All of the questions were specific to human services generally. The candidates have two weeks to answer the questions, and their responses will be posted on the Eastside Human Services Forum website. The posting will be announced in a press release.

Ms. Rasnack indicated that on July 13 the King County Council is set to vote on the programs currently in the lifeboat. The programs in the lifeboat have been receiving temporary funding which is set to expire June 30. She said the King County Council has a three-year plan to end the funding of all human services by 2011.

There was agreement that Network members should put in calls as private citizens to the King County Councilmembers asking for continued support and funding of the programs in the lifeboat.

Ms. O'Reilly noted that the cities of Kirkland and Redmond plan to send letters to the King County Councilmembers supporting of continued funding for the lifeboat agencies through the end of the year. She said it was her understanding that the Bellevue City Council is considering sending a letter of support as well.

Chair Robinson said she would support sending the five questions developed for the candidates forum to each of the candidates for King County Executive and publishing their answers in the *Bellevue Reporter*. Ms. Thompson said the questions were developed by the joint Bellevue and Kirkland group and would need the permission of both before taking that approach; she added that getting the permission of Kirkland would probably not be difficult and said she would bring it up at the next meeting of the joint council.

Motion to seek agreement from Kirkland and when obtained to send the questions to each of the candidates for the office of King County Executive and to all candidates running for positions that cover any part of Bellevue, and to publish their answers in the *Bellevue Reporter*, was made by Ms. Rasnack; second was by Ms. Seltzer and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dilley stressed the need to inform the candidates of the intention to publish their answers in the *Bellevue Reporter*. There was agreement to do that.

#### BNOA MAINTENANCE

- A. PR/Outreach
- B. Regional Partnerships
- C. Legislative Issues

Ms. Kimball said she and Ms. Ressler represented the Network at the Strawberry Festival and shared a booth with Parks. Promotional and informational materials were handed out to many. The items most frequently picked up regarding recreational opportunities at the senior center

and the larger booklet for the city. There was a pleasant sense of surprise regarding the kinds and number of services the city offers. The most frequently fielded questions had to do with transportation issues.

Mr. Megargel said plans are still being worked out to have a booth at the farmers market in the fall on Senior Day. He said the committee will have only one more meeting before the event and would love to hear suggestions about what should be highlighted.

Ms. Thompson reported that she as an individual has been volunteering with the Fraud Fighter program offered by AARP. She said studies have shown that seniors who are warned in advance about scams commonly pulled on them are far less likely to fall for the scams. The Fraud Fighter program is currently involved in cold calling seniors to give them information about the upcoming census. The seniors are told that they have the right to ask census takers for identification and that no census worker will ever ask for a social security number or anything about credit card numbers. The Fraud Fighter program has also been working with seniors to educate them regarding charity frauds.

Chair Robinson thought it would be interesting for the Network to receive a full presentation on the Fraud Fighter program at some point in the future.

Ms. Thompson said she also faxed a letter on behalf of the Network on Aging to both state senators and Congressman Reichert. The letter highlighted issues of concern to seniors. Mr. Katz said he personally knows someone on Congressman Reichert's staff who personally delivered the Network letter to him and reported back that the letter was read.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Advocacy/Housing & Mobility

Mr. Dilley said the committee is excited about attending the July 15 meeting at the Crossroads Community Center from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. He said the committee wants to dovetail with the work already done by ARCH relative to compiling a list of all Eastside housing options for seniors and added the group is hoping to learn more about housing options at the meeting.

### B. Education/Safety & Support

Ms. Thompson reported that in addition to working on details for participating at the farmers market, the committee had a letter on elder abuse printed in the *Bellevue Reporter* in June. A second article on staying cool in the summertime for seniors has been drafted and submitted to the *Bellevue Reporter* but has not been published yet. Fall Prevention Month is in September and the committee intends to have another article in the paper regarding that topic.

Ms. Thompson said she recently led a neighborhood food drive and found everyone to be very supportive.

## STAFF REPORT

### A. Update Report on Human Services Needs Assessment

Ms. O'Reilly said she is continuing her work to put together the Needs Update. She thanked everyone who participated in the community conversations, the information from which is being folded into the section on older adults. She said she intends to provide a short presentation at the next Network meeting and seek feedback to be included in the implications section of the report.

Ms. O'Reilly said a draft of the full report will be delivered to the Human Services Commission for review by September 1. Once they approve the draft, the final version will be delivered to the Human Services Commission in November for final approval. The resulting document will be before the City Council in study session in January.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Katz reminded the Network members about the Seniors vs City staff/volunteers softball game at Hidden Valley Park on July 15 at 4pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS – None

#### UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Robinson reviewed with the Network the upcoming agenda items.

#### ADJOURN

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.