

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

September 4, 2008
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynne Robinson, Jim Messner, Stephen Lam, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Dwayne Dilley, Diana Thompson, Marjorie Todd, Gary Dickerman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christina Coulter, Eve Stern, Catherine Brallier, Howard Katz,

STAFF PRESENT: Cathy VonWald, Department of Parks and Community Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Doris Ford, Kirkland Senior Council

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Robinson who presided. All Committee members were present with the exception of Christina Coulter, Eve Stern, Catherine Brallier, and Howard Katz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 7, 2008

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. VonWald reported that the nominating committee worked in August on the application and press release, and discussed the re-application deadline for existing members whose terms will expire in December; the date selected was September 5, 2008. The press release and application packet will be posted on the city's website the week of September 8. The deadline for general applications is October 3. The nominating committee will review the applications in October, conduct interviews, and prepare a recommendation for the November 6 Network meeting. New members will attend the retreat in January and attend their first regular Network meeting in February.

EASTSIDE HUMAN SERVICES FORUM OLDER ADULTS GROUP

Ms. VonWald said the Eastside Human Services Forum has on its 2008 agenda investigating the needs of older adults. Their previous focus areas have been early learning, homelessness,

and immigration. One focus for 2008 is on determining the momentum behind creating an East King County or Eastside providers group focused on older adults issues regionally.

The older adults group had its third meeting on September 3 where it was determined that the East King County advisory group will serve in an advisory capacity to the Eastside Human Services Forum with a focus on strategies regarding policies and funding issues. The group will meet again in November.

The East King County region includes the area north to Shoreline and Mountlake Terrace, south to Bellevue and Mercer Island, and everything east to North Bend.

Ms. Thompson asked why the subgroup is needed in addition to the Eastside Human Services Forum. Ms. Rasnack said the organization is concerned that there has been no real coming together of groups that work with older adult issues. There has not previously been a focus on the needs of older adults. The intent is to give East King County more of a unified voice. The coalitions formed around homelessness and children have very successfully pulled groups together to focus on advocacy.

Ms. VonWald stressed that ultimately the effort will not be managed by the Eastside Human Services Forum but rather will be a coalition of providers.

UTILITY BILL MESSAGE THEME: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Chair Robinson noted that during 2007 the Network talked about using the utility billing to talk about things having to do with the Network. She reminded the group that at the August meeting the group talked about the fact that October is Emergency Preparedness Month for the City of Bellevue and said that issue could be highlighted.

Ms. VonWald shared that the September/October bill has already been sent out and noted that she was able to include a notice regarding the Home Sweet Home Fair.

Chair Robinson reminded the group that the billings are sent out every other month and suggested the group should be planning what announcements should be included in future billings.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. VonWald made available to the Network members flyers about upcoming events, including the September 17 Legislative Forum to be conducted by Aging and Disability Services; Safe Steps, a fall and fire prevention fair to be conducted in association with Overlake Hospital at Factoria Mall on September 23, and at the North Bellevue Community Center on September 25; and the City Council proclamation on September 15 regarding fall prevention week.

Ms. VonWald reminded the Network members that the public speaking training seminar is scheduled for September 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. She also noted that the next regular meeting will be held on Friday, October 10.

Mr. Dickerman stressed the need to have some talking points written out along with some narrative for the Network members to use. Ms. VonWald agreed that would be very helpful.

Chair Robinson reported that she attended the Lake Hills open house along with Mr. Katz. She said a number of asked about translating the Network materials. Ms. VonWald said the City does not have an official policy regarding the translation of documents, but does engage in translating resource documents, typically into Chinese and Spanish. She suggested inviting the city's Cultural Diversity Coordinator, Kevin Henry, to attend an upcoming meeting to talk about his focus and how the city responds to diversity and translating needs.

There was agreement to invite Mr. Henry to attend an upcoming meeting.

Ms. VonWald noted that the drafted schedule of Network members to meet with the Kirkland Senior Council runs only through the September meeting. It was agreed that all Network members should have the opportunity to attend the meetings, and to bring up the issue at the retreat.

Ms. VonWald reported that the Vial of Life program has been wildly successful. There are only about 50 vials left. A very nice email was received from Silver Glenn thanking the Network for supporting the issue.

Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly explained that the King County Alliance for Human Services is an organization that includes human service agencies from throughout King County. One of their main current thrusts is to combat the proposed King County funding cuts for human services. The county executive's budget will not be out until mid-October, and the budget office has been quite sketchy about exactly what will happen. The Alliance will not be able to argue against specific cuts until it knows what those cuts will be.

Ms. Rasnack said there used to be a King County Councilmember on the Aging and Disability Advisory Group. The coalition recently drafted a letter to the King County Council asking to once again have a representative; the thinking is that with representation the King County Council would have a better idea of the importance of older adult issues. A staff person has been assigned, which is a step in the right direction.

Chair Robinson said she would like the Network to be kept abreast of what services are at risk as the budget process moves forward. Ms. O'Reilly promised to keep the group informed.

Ms. Thompson reminded the Network that the Home Sweet Home Fair is scheduled for November 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The format includes having everyone together to hear the speakers, most of whom will give half-hour talks. The keynote speaker will be Bill Schulties. Chair Robinson will be conducting a workshop on Staying Safe- Innovative Home Adaptations.

Chair Robinson urged the members to promote the Home Sweet Home Fair wherever and whenever possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Transportation

Mr. Dickerman said the transportation subcommittee met in August with the Easy Rider Collaborative and learned that the Travel Ambassador program has become very successful with Hopelink at the helm. The Bus Buddy program is still recruiting volunteers. Wonderful training materials have been developed and distributed. The Dial A Ride program is in place operationally but has not been officially kicked off.

Mr. Dickerman said the Easy Rider Collaborative has talked about appointing a mobility coordinator. The part-time position would be under the auspices of Hopelink, and funding for the position will be sought.

B. Housing

Ms. Todd said the housing subcommittee met on August 29. She said there was agreement to continue following the Bel-Red project, and to make available any resources regarding universal design. The group talked about submitting a letter to the editor of the *Bellevue Reporter* to highlight the fact that there is a group looking at the issue of housing for seniors in Bellevue, and to talk about some of the actions taken to date.

The subcommittee also discussed the recent real estate market and how seniors in the community might be impacted.

Chair Robinson said her conversations in the community have led her to believe that many people have needs but are not sure who to contact. She asked if there is a primary phone number anyone having mortgage issues can call. Ms. VonWald noted that the places to call include ARCH, SNAP for Seniors, the Committee to End Homelessness, the Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless, and the YWCA. Ms. O'Reilly said there are also some numbers put out by Housing and Urban Development that could be better advertised.

Chair Robinson suggested putting together a short resource list and making it available at the Home Sweet Home Fair. The same could be highlighted in a letter to the editor. Ms. Thompson proposed having a table at the Home Sweet Home Fair highlighting the work of each of the Network subcommittees. Ms. O'Reilly proposed that King County Metro should also be asked to be present.

Motion to have the housing subcommittee draft a letter to the editor and bring it to the Network for approval was made by Ms. Todd. Second was by Ms. Seltzer and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Support Services

Ms. Thompson said the Power Point presentation was given by Chair Robinson on August 14 at the Vuecrest Community Association meeting; she added that it was very well received. On November 12 Chair Robinson and Mr. Katz are slated to give the presentation to the Wilburton Neighborhood Association. Ms. Thompson said she would be attending the widows group at the First Presbyterian Church later in the day to deliver 50 Vial of Life packets; she said her intent was to include a little speech prior to the main program speaker. She said she will also be delivering some Vials of Life to the YMCA on either September 8 or 9.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. O'Reilly reported that the Eastside Human Services Forum has drafted a legislative agenda that has yet to be adopted by the full group. She said if anyone knows of issues before the state legislature that will be affecting older adults they should let her know so it can be added to the legislative agenda.

Ms. Rasnack said one issue of some importance is the proposal by the IRS that volunteer drivers be required to report mileage reimbursements as income. If approved, that will be a huge burden on small organizations, and volunteer drivers could be lost.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS – None

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Robinson reviewed the list of topics to be discussed at upcoming meetings. There was agreement that the Network will review the work plan for the year to see if there are items that have not yet been addressed.

ADJOURN

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 9:47 a.m.