

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

January 8, 2009
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynne Robinson, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Dwayne Dilley, Bill Merriman, Diana Thompson, Howard Katz, Marjorie Todd, Gary Dickerman, Jullie Gray, Bob Megargel, Heidi Ressler, Hannah Kimball

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Sharon Carlson, facilitator

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 a.m. by Ms. VonWald who presided. All committee members were present.

INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. VonWald introduced Sharon Carlson, noting that Ms. Carlson would be serving as facilitator for the retreat.

Ms. Carlson invited everyone present to introduce themselves, indicate why and when they joined the Network, and to say what would make the retreat a success for them.

Mr. Howard Katz said he joined the Senior Advisory Board eight years ago. He said he participated in researching the development of the Network and was one of the charter members. He said he wanted to see the group review what has been accomplished to date and to identify any new areas to be explored.

Mr. Bob Megargel said he owns a company called Home Instead that helps seniors with non-medical issues. He said he was attending his first Network meeting as a member and was looking forward to increasing the quality of life of seniors living in Bellevue. He said the retreat would be a success if it generated a great deal of interaction among the members.

Ms. Diana Thompson said she has been a member of the Network since its founding. She said she hoped the retreat would leave everyone thinking they are headed in the same direction and are ready to go.

Ms. Berta Seltzer said she also was a charter member of the Network. She said she has served on various committees over the years, including the Human Services Commission of which she is currently a member. She said her pet project is the King County Library System Foundation. She said she would consider the retreat a success if each member gained the understanding that the Network is recognized by the City Council and as such has a voice.

Ms. Eileen Rasnack said she works with Catholic Community Services in programs that are specifically focused on seniors. She said she also was an original member of the Network. She said the retreat would be a success if it yielded a clear vision and course of action for the Network.

Ms. Marjorie Todd said she began working with seniors in her first job out of high school and has been working with seniors for the past 20 years; she said her passion is in the area of dementia care. She said she wanted the Network to improve in its advocacy role.

Mr. Bill Merriman said he retired from a career in the corporate world at a relatively young age. He said he grew up close to his grandparents and other elderly adults so has always been well in touch with seniors. He said his goal was to learn more about the organization and how he could fit best into the structure.

Ms. Heidi Ressler said she works in the insurance field, including the care of homes and personal well being. She said she comes from a family with good longevity and is personally involved with seniors as a result. Bellevue's population has changed dramatically over the years and there is a real need for senior advocacy.

Ms. Jullie Gray said she has a background in social work and health care. She said she owned her own business providing geriatric care to seniors. She said she previously served as Vice Chair of the Kirkland Senior Council. She said she hoped to gain a better understanding of the work accomplished by the Network over the past couple of years.

Ms. Hannah Kimball said her background was in corporate America, primarily in safety, health and environmental affairs. She said too often seniors drift into the background shortly after they retire. Many do not know how to stay involved in their community, and many do not know what their resources are. She said she wanted to be involved in projects that will help that segment of the population feel included, safe, feel valued, and have control over their lives. She said the retreat would be a success if at the end she had a fabulous project to focus on.

Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly said she has worked closely with the Network over the past couple of years to integrate the work and activities of the Human Services Commission. She said she is very active in the work done every two years in producing the Needs Update, which includes a focus on the needs of older adults in the community.

Mr. Gary Dickerman said he spent 30 years in corporate America before turning to work as facility director and minister for a church. He said he has gained an appreciation for the needs of older citizens. He said his expectations for the retreat were to revisit the progress made to date and to check the charted course against the core values and vision.

Mr. Dwayne Dilley said he is a financial planner with a practice in Bellevue that deals mainly with retirement plans. He said he accepted the appointment to the Network as a way to give back to and to be involved with the community. He said he also would like to see the group review its accomplishments and review its goals.

Ms. Lynn Robinson said she has a business in which she provides home care physical therapy to non-homebound seniors. She said she has been a member of the Network from the beginning. She said in working with seniors she was amazed at how little they know about what is available to them by way of assistance. She said she hopes the Network will become so visible that people will be able to access the knowledge base on their own and said the

retreat would be a success if it resulted in the incorporation of ideas from the new members and the development of new plans.

Assistant Director Terry Smith said his responsibilities in the Parks Department include the communities centers, the human services division, and youth sports programs. He stressed the importance of gaining insights and wisdom, which the Network has done since it began. He encouraged the Network to widen its areas of influence with an eye on being able to provide them all with useful information that will allow them to do a better job of making decisions.

Mr. Katz reported that state Attorney General Rob McKenna has agreed to speak to the City Council, the Parks Board, interested boards and commission and key staff in March. He will talk about a variety of topics, including topics of interest to seniors. The meeting will be held in City Hall and sponsored by the Network on Aging.

Ms. VonWald provided each Network member with a notebook in which to keep notes and materials. Included in the notebooks was information about city services, the Bus Buddy program, Bellevue By The Numbers, the Home Repair program, and utility rebates. Also included was a Councilmember list, Parks Board roster, city organizational charts, the Network roster and bylaws, copies of materials created by the Network, and a section on strategic planning.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Support Services

Ms. Thompson said she and Mr. Katz served together on a committee with the Kirkland Senior Council focused on what the two groups could do together. The decision was made to focus on the Vial of Life project. After a great deal of background research and planning work was done, it was discovered that Medic One had plans to launch a similar program, so the decision was made to have the Kirkland Senior Council and the Network on Aging assist Medic One with publicity and distribution of the vials.

Ms. Thompson explained that when first responders come to render medical assistance, there is not always someone in the house who can provide details about the medical background of the person in need of help. In those instances, they may not be able to render the right treatment. The Vial of Life is a plastic vial six inches tall that is used to house a simple form that includes name, who to contact in an emergency, a listing of all known illnesses, a listing of all allergies, and a listing of all medications taken along with the dosage. The vial is kept on the top shelf of the refrigerator, the magnet that comes with the kit is stuck to the outside of the refrigerator door, and the sign that comes with the kit is placed on the front door. Responders are then alerted and know just where to get the information they need.

More than 2000 of the Vials of Life have been passed out in Bellevue, and a decision needs to be made about how to proceed now that the stock is almost depleted. The vials can also be purchased at any Bartell's drug store for only one dollar.

Ms. Thompson said the Support Services subcommittee set as one of its goals information sharing among organizations, with a focus on private non-profit organizations and government. In July 2008 a forum was organized, and service organizations that provide information and referral to seniors were invited to attend. The attendees include Overlake Senior Care, Evergreen Hospital, Group Health Hospital, 2-1-1, and Senior Information and Referral. The event was well received and provided an opportunity for the various groups to exchange information and coordinate their efforts. The subcommittee believes a similar forum should be held again in the future, though not necessarily in 2009.

Another project of the subcommittee was participating in the Home Sweet Home Fair. The objective was to partner with Overlake Senior Care and others. The event, which was held in November, included a variety of excellent speakers, including Chair Robinson who talked about physical therapy and how seniors can live safely in their homes. Vendors of services and products that enable seniors to stay in their homes participated in the event as well. Attendance was up over the 2007 event, but it could have been better; parking is an issue using the City Hall site.

The subcommittee was also involved in Gatekeeper training and general outreach. Ms. Thompson explained that the Gatekeeper program instructs people as to the signs that a senior is in need of help. The subcommittee has touted the program to neighborhood associations and has arranged for training sessions.

Ms. Thompson said the subcommittee developed a presentation to be given to community groups. The Power Point presentation took a long time to develop but has only been shown to a couple of neighborhood associations to date. The focus of the presentation is on the increasing aging population in Bellevue, the role of the city, the Network on Aging, the needs of older adults, and resources in the community.

The outreach materials developed by the subcommittee include a bookmark, a list of resources for older adults, and other things.

One thing the subcommittee or the Network as a whole could do is include a Bellevue tag on the elder abuse video that was scripted by Kirkland and have it aired on BTv.

Ms. Gray said she had the lead for the video project while serving on the Kirkland Senior Council and wrote the script for it. She suggested it would be an easy thing to revise the introduction to provide a Bellevue tag.

Mr. Katz said it is not always easy for the children of older adults to obtain the information they need. Their primary source is Senior Services. The subcommittee has been working to get the Crisis Line 2-1-1 service to link callers to Senior Services or some other agency. Chair Robinson said the argument offered by the 2-1-1 folks was that they want to primarily be a crisis line; if the number of calls they receive goes up by taking on other issues, they will need additional staff. The Senior Services number is being promoted instead.

Housing

Ms. Rasnack said the housing subcommittee identified five goals for 2008, beginning with building on the work done in 2007 to conduct an inventory of housing availability and costs. The second goal was to focus on universal design components for older adults, which was accomplished by making sure there was information available at the Home Sweet Home Fair. The third goal was to connect with the Planning Department as it focused on the Bel-Red corridor and any other areas of the city where there was the possibility of constructing affordable housing, particularly for older adults. The subcommittee encouraged the department and the Planning Commission to keep in mind universal design, affordability, and mandatory incentives to encourage developers to be looking at affordable housing.

The fourth goal was to conduct outreach to non-English older adults with information on housing. The research included determining what information is already available to non-English speakers, and identifying gaps and providing that information.

Finally, the subcommittee set as a goal supporting the Network in its work with the Neighborhood Liaison Program to provide resources regarding housing and helping older adults remain in their homes.

Ms. Rasnack said the subcommittee had a lot of energy at the time it developed the goals and was excited about what had been accomplished in 2007. Over the course of the year, however, some members experienced health issues and were not able to fully participate; that made it far more difficult to achieve the goals.

No work was done during 2008 on the housing inventory. The focus primarily was on the Bel-Red corridor and doing advocacy for affordable housing. A letter was drafted and sent to the Planning Commission which supported the position of the human services division; the letter talked about incorporating universal design, incorporating housing for seniors, affordability, and mandatory incentives. In addition, a letter was written and sent to Councilmember Noble thanking him for the strong stance he took on housing. In December a letter was sent to the City Council as it was getting ready to review the recommendations of the Planning Commission relative to the Bel-Red subarea.

Ms. Rasnack said the committee was not actively engaged in outreach to non-English speaking older adults during 2008, though some members of the Network did participate in focus groups held around older adult issues.

Ms. Rasnack suggested that in order for the subcommittee to move forward in accomplishing its goals, it will need an influx of members. The subcommittee should continue to follow the Bel-Red issue and promote universal design. Housing is a huge issue and one that is very complex, so when the next steps are selected they need to be achievable.

Ms. O'Reilly pointed out that ARCH has a lot of collected data related to affordable housing, including low-income and subsidized housing. She suggested that the subcommittee should check in with that agency to see what information they have.

Transportation

Mr. Dilley said it took the subcommittee most of 2007 to narrow down the field of possibilities to something achievable. The focus was on how older adults in Bellevue who do not drive can get to the downtown area, or the hospital or doctor's office.

Mr. Dickerman said the subcommittee has been working with the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative, an organization that is interested in transportation issues. The EERC works with Hopelink, King County Metro and Sound Transit. The subcommittee also has an interest in the downtown circulator project which has been approved by the City Council but which will not kick off until 2010.

The Bus Buddy and Travel Ambassador programs are two of the programs the subcommittee has been involved with. A third project focused on the dial-a-ride concept has not yet made it off the ground. In each case, the projects are aimed at encouraging people to use public transit and teaching them how.

The subcommittee members have been giving presentations to key decision makers, attending forums and workshops, and attending Council meetings. The group has been working to support the projects that have been funded through the EERC, and has been creating marketing tools aimed at getting the word out.

Mr. Dickerman said the subcommittee intends to continue working on the same projects in 2009. In addition, funding is being sought for a mobility manager position to help coordinate a variety of programs. Work will continue on the downtown circulator project. The group may partner with the city of Kirkland on a small project, and may form a speakers bureau to talk specifically about transportation issues.

INTERNAL NETWORK WORKINGS

Ms. VonWald noted that during 2008 the Network formed a committee that revised the mission statement. Another committee worked on Network marketing materials, including a logo. There was good collaboration between the Network and the Kirkland Senior Council, and interested persons from Mercer Island visited to gain understanding about the workings of the Network; they have since formed their own organization.

Ms. VonWald pointed out that there was no response to an email sent out seeking self-nominations for Network chair and vice-chair. Accordingly the current chair and vice-chair will continue to serve in 2009.

It was noted that the Network by-laws include a liaison position. Ms. VonWald suggested that work should be done to better define the position.

Ms. Thompson observed that Network members attended a lot of community events during 2008 to hand out literature and showcase the Vial of Life program. The Network also sent a letter to Governor Gregoire regarding Medicaid.

Ms. O'Reilly said she and several members of the Network along with Ms. VonWald helped pull together the east King County older adults network. The group is comprised of folks who provide services on the Eastside. On January 14 the focus will be on legislative issues for the 2009 session.

BREAK

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING NEW PROJECTS

Ms. Carlson asked the members to offer suggestions for projects and ideas that will really matter to the Network as a whole. She pointed out that all projects must be in alignment with the Network mission statement. At least three persons must commit to working on any given project before it can be accepted, though not all three need to be Network members. Projects selected cannot jeopardize the ability of the Network to complete other projects. A majority of the Network members must believe a candidate project has value before it can be approved. Each project voted in must be carried out in the name of the Network. No new project can duplicate services or step on the toes of others.

Ms. Carlson said the decision-making criteria are quite simple. All decisions must be made by vote, with a simple majority of those present required. The decisions are considered binding given that a quorum was present for the vote, and the minority opinions will be noted in the official record.

To date, the Network has been operating with three subcommittees: transportation, housing, and support services. Chair Robinson said in planning for the retreat she asked Ms. Carlson to think outside the box and develop a new paradigm. The subcommittee approach has served the Network well but can be cumbersome when subcommittees lose members.

Ms. Carlson said the current approach is to base the work of the subcommittees on specific subject areas. All of the goals and ideas for projects are written down together in laundry list fashion, then all of the subcommittee members work on all of the ideas together. People, especially in volunteer organizations, need to find ways to use their particular skills and strengths, and that may be more in strategies than in topic areas. No matter what the issue, there is always going to be some work that has to do with research; people who are good researchers and love to work on their own should be selected to do that work. When projects turn to education and outreach, the persons who excel in that line of work should be tapped. Often projects also require someone to play an advocacy role, and the right persons should be put in charge of those activities.

Ms. Thompson suggested that the Network has spent the time since its creation becoming educated. The members are all volunteers and were in the beginning naïve. Without a solid knowledge base, the Network cannot be effective. Education works best when the focus is narrowed, so the current topic approach is the best. Ms. Carlson said she was not recommending a move away from the topic approach so much as giving consideration to utilizing the members to the best of their abilities by allowing them to work their specific magic by transferring skills within the Network across the topic areas.

Mr. Mergengel proposed adding the word “resource” to the mission statement so people will see the Network for something more than just information on housing, transportation and support services.

Ms. Carlson suggested the speaker’s bureau idea could be a case in point. Instead of having a speaker’s bureau just for the transportation subcommittee, there could be a speaker’s bureau task force charged with going where the need is.

Mr. Dilley cautioned against spreading the membership too thin. Ms. Carlson agreed but raised the idea of the Network tapping others to assist in the work, such as interns, potential Network members, or others with specific skills.

Ms. Gray said that approach was used in Kirkland but the process of bringing others in became very difficult because so-called outsiders are not as committed to the cause as the regular members are. She expressed an interest in each of the three categories and said she has expertise to bring to each area. The Network is a small enough group that it should not have too many subcommittees.

Commissioner Seltzer asked if the Network is permitted to call on city staff to do research or play a role in providing education. Ms. O’Reilly allowed that to a certain extent that certainly is a possibility. She said the information on demographics used by the Network was generated by city staff.

Mr. Dilley pointed out that the Network generally and each of the three subcommittees has in the past sought assistance from staff and has received it willingly, especially in the area of research.

Ms. Carlson observed that the work to continue cooperating with Kirkland on the Vial of Life project falls under the headings of education and outreach, though it may involve some additional research. The notion of an information sharing forum is also an education and outreach effort. The same is true for the Home Sweet Home Fair, the Gatekeeper training, and the elder abuse video. Accordingly, the work of the Support Services subcommittee is mostly about education and outreach.

Mr. Dickerman said the transportation subcommittee has engaged in research, education and outreach but has not done all of them well. That fact that the subcommittee had only four members has limited the work that could have been done.

Mr. Katz pointed out that the Network is supposed to answer to the Parks and Community Services Board. He asked if that means any idea touted by the Network that will require City Council approval must first be vetted by the Parks and Community Services Board, or if the Network can advocate for the project directly with the Council. Ms. VonWald allowed that all advocacy carried out to date by the Network, the Bel-Red corridor is a good case in point, has been carried directly to the point group, be it the Planning Commission or the City Council.

Ms. Ressler suggested that each of the subcommittees will need to conduct a needs assessment of what it will take for them to accomplish their 2009 goals. Any committee concluding that it needs some research done should bring the request to the full Network to see if there are members willing to step up and do the work. That would give everyone on the Network the opportunity to utilize their skills to the fullest.

Ms. Thompson said the main problem with the subcommittee she has served on has not been a shortage of skills but a lack of manpower, predicated primarily on the loss of members. Additionally, some members have not picked up their fair share of the load. Another problem has been lack of participation by all Network members on projects such as the Home Sweet Home Fair; the same people tend to show up to all events.

Ms. O'Reilly suggested that as conditions in the city change, it may be that in certain years the Network will want to focus more on one thing than another; for instance, in one year research may be the pressing issue, whereas in another year education and outreach may have the top billing.

Mr. Dilley said one of his goals is to have some cross training, to use his unique talents certainly but to become better in the areas in which he is not as strong. He asked Ms. Carlson if she was proposing each subcommittee should prioritize the roles of its members and handle all tasks within the subcommittee. Ms. Carlson said some of what should be done in the coming year will be internal work, such as the members training themselves to be better at what they do. She said she would like to hear about how things have worked in the past with the way things have been set up, how well that has worked, and any suggestions for changing that direction.

Chair Robinson said she would like to look outside the confines of the three committees and brainstorm ideas for things the Network members would like to see accomplished. She suggested the ideas could then be allocated to the three committees, if they fit, and then decide who should be on which committee.

Ms. Rasnack said she liked the idea of having the Network participate in the update of the needs assessment. That is a natural fit for the group.

Mr. Katz said he would like to see the Network advocate for a downtown site for older adults recreation. Ms. VonWald pointed out that the recent parks levy includes funding to turn the old courthouse in Surrey Downs into a community center.

Mr. Megargel said he would like the Network to revisit its mission statement to include the word "resource."

Ms. Thompson proposed the need for the Network members to become educated with regard to pressing legislative issues relative to older adults and determining in what ways the Network should become involved through advocacy.

Mr. Dickerman said he would like the Network to seek a better understanding of the types of services needed by older adults who are disadvantaged and how the Network could serve as a tool.

Ms. Kimball said suggested the way to reach diversified groups is through their kids. Presentations made at the schools or PTSA meetings will be brought home by the kids to the parents and grandparents. She proposed including the school system in all outreach efforts.

Mr. Merriman commented that the list of issues in need of work is monumental. Needs change every year; certainly with the economic downturn the needs of 2009 will be different from the needs of 2008. Networking, resourcing, leveraging and advocating are all linked; each supports the others. The more the Network looks at ways to leverage its clout by tapping into more people and organizations, the effective the group will be.

Chair Robinson stated that everything the Network decides to do should fall under the umbrella of the city's overall mission statement.

Mr. Dilley said he would like to see the number of subcommittees reduced to only two for 2009. The current structure spreads the members too thin to accomplish what needs to be done.

Ms. Gray suggested the need to focus on helping seniors be more prepared for natural disasters.

Mr. Katz said he would like to see the Network increase its partnerships with other cities, particularly Mercer Island, Bothell and Redmond.

Ms. Thompson said the group needs to determine whether or not a Network member should continue to attend the monthly meetings of the Kirkland Senior Council. Mr. Dickerman suggested that someone should also be attending the City Council meetings.

Chair Robinson said she would like to see the development of a senior directory, akin to the Cultural Navigator, that can be handed out to people in Bellevue. The directory should include all emergency numbers, information on transportation and housing, and how to access information and support services. She said she also would like to the Network create a handout that encompasses all of the information the Network has on housing available to seniors, support services and transportation options.

Ms. Todd observed that when people are tasked with doing what they are good at they will be more effective. She agreed that by reducing the number of subcommittees to only two, the members that make up those committees could find themselves being assigned to the areas they are best at.

Mr. Dilley said if he had to choose, he would recommend keeping support services and transportation as the two subcommittees. The former overlaps transportation and housing, and the latter has a great deal of momentum currently.

Ms. Carlson reviewed the suggestions offered by the members and determined which fell into the categories of outreach, research and advocacy.

Mr. Katz highlighted the need for additional education regarding older adults identity theft and abuse.

Ms. Kimball suggested that there is already a large volume of information available about identity theft, and elder abuse is a shadowy topic that it would be difficult to fence in. She said more pressing than identity theft is education about elders being victimized by scam artists. Every year there are stories in the newspapers about elders who were unwittingly swindled.

Ms. Thompson noted the need to add to the board continuing to share the Power Point presentation with community groups and attending community events to distribute information.

Ms. Carlson proposed that the process of outreach could be something left to the entire Network rather than to individual committees.

With all of the proposed ideas written on the board, the Network members were asked to indicate which are the most important. Each member was given six dots. They were directed to write their names on two of them and place them next to the two issues they would most like to be involved with, and the remaining four next to issues the Network as a whole should be involved with.

Ms. Carlson reported that the issues with six or more votes were: elder abuse education/identity theft/victimization; partnering with the city to work on the Needs Update; Bel-Red corridor issues and advocacy for affordable housing; and continued work with the Easy Rider project. The issues with four or five votes were: increased partnerships with other cities; outreach to include disadvantaged/diverse/other populations; the need for education regarding current legislative issues affecting older adults; and advocating for a downtown site for older adult recreation.

Ms. Carlson said if the Network elects to continue with its current subcommittee structure, there would need to be a change of emphasis. The other option would be to move toward a project-based emphasis.

Mr. Dickerman said he would prefer to try the project-based approach. Ms. Carlson said that presumably include having a group focused on advocacy, another on outreach, and a third on research. Chair Robinson said she would prefer not to pigeonhole the process; the better approach would be to make sure there are folks with expertise in those areas working on each project.

Chair Robinson proposed taking the top three projects for the first three months of the year, addressing them by project group.

Ms. Rasnack suggested that the Bel-Red corridor project likely will not need a lot of energy going into. There certainly will be times when it will require action, and the issue will need to be tracked, with someone attending any and all planning meetings and providing a report to the Network.

Ms. VonWald pointed out that work on the Needs Update will begin very soon and could take most of the year. The topic of educating older adults about identity theft, abuse and how to avoid being victimized could entail community events. Those two choices alone would keep the Network quite busy for the coming year. She suggested the group should continue to be plugged into the Easy Rider Collaborative, which does have a tie to the Bel-Red corridor.

There could be a transportation group that includes Easy Rider and Bel-Red, and another focused on research, education and advocacy.

Ms. Carlson suggested that rather than having three committees, there could be a group of people working advocacy, specifically the Bel-Red corridor and the Easy Rider project; one group focused on education, specifically elder abuse/identity theft/victimization; and one group focused on helping to revise the Needs Update.

Chair Robinson held that continuing to promote the Network to the community is one task the group simply must continue with; the promotional materials have already been developed. She said she would be willing to try the approach proposed by Ms. Carlson for three months to see how things go.

Ms. Thompson suggested the proposed approach would mean less work for each of the members.

Ms. Kimball suggested that advocacy as a term is too vague. Ms. Carlson allowed that the category could be narrowed to a focus on housing and mobility alone and given that name. The group expressed general support for that notion. The group proposed several names for the education and outreach category but could not readily agree on any of them.

Ms. Todd suggested that the real mission of the Network is to focus on advocacy, research and education. While the specific projects tackled every year by the group will undoubtedly change, they will always fall into one or more of those general categories.

There was agreement to use the general categories of advocacy, research and education. Housing and mobility were placed in the advocacy category; helping to revise the Needs Update was placed in the research category; and safety and support were put in the education category.

Chair Robinson proposed that maintenance should be called out as a separate category that includes maintaining partnerships with other cities. The group agreed with the idea.

Ms. Thompson held that keeping apprised of legislative issues affecting seniors should be retained under the maintenance category.

It was agreed the Housing and Mobility Committee members would be Ms. Ressler, Mr. Dickerman, Mr. Dilley, Ms. Rasnack, Ms. Todd, Mr. Katz and Ms. Seltzer, with Ms. Seltzer and Mr. Dilley as the co-chairs. The members of the Needs Assessment Committee were Ms. Kimball, Mr. Dickerman, Ms. Gray, Mr. Dilley, Ms. Rasnack and Chair Robinson, with Ms. Gray and Ms. Rasnack as leaders. The members of the Safety & Support Committee were set as Chair Robinson, Ms. Kimball, Ms. Gray, Ms. Ressler, Mr. Merriman, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Megargel and Mr. Katz, with Ms. Ressler and Ms. Thompson as leaders.

EVALUATION

Ms. Carlson asked for comments about what worked for the retreat, what did not work, and what should be changed the next time around.

Mr. Katz suggested the meeting needs to be longer. Mr. Dickerman suggested more could be done in the same amount of time if the group were more concise in managing the time.

Ms. Thompson agreed with the need for a longer meeting, citing the need to educate new members, which takes time.

There was an even split in the number of members who thought the retreat should be longer than four hours and who thought it should remain at four hours.

Chair Robinson thanked Ms. Carlson for facilitating the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.