

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

December 3, 2009  
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E -120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynne Robinson, Berta Seltzer, Dwayne Dilley, Diana Thompson, Eileen Rasnack, Jullie Gray, Bob Megargel, Heidi Ressler, Hannah Kimball, Peg English, Richard Englund, Cindy Sharek

MEMBERS ABSENT: Howard Katz, Bill Merriman, Beverly Heyden

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

OTHERS PRESENT: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:39 a.m. by Chair Robinson who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Howard Katz, Bill Merriman and Beverly Heyden, all of whom were excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 5, 2009

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

DISCUSSION: Retreat Topics

Chair Robinson reminded the Network members of the annual retreat scheduled for January 7 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. She said the meeting will be facilitated to keep things on track and organized.

Ms. VonWald said she, Chair Robinson, and Vice Chair Kimball would be meeting with the facilitator in two weeks to talk about the retreat. She said anyone with suggestions for what to cover at the retreat should voice them as soon as possible so the facilitator can be prepared in advance of the meeting. The names of the committees were changed at the last retreat, though they may need to be clarified or better focused. Other possible objectives for 2010 as previously highlighted by the Network include regional partnerships, including assisting other Eastside cities to have their own senior organizations; a continued focus on housing; and continuing with the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative.

Ms. Seltzer suggested focusing on the concept of universal design as well. Ms. VonWald said that is something that could possibly be worked into the update of the Housing Element in the Comprehensive Plan.

## DISCUSSION: Transportation 2040 Plan

Ms. O'Reilly said there is a Special Needs Transportation Steering Committee for each of the four counties governed by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). She noted that the PSRC is currently working on a document called Transportation 2040 and is seeking public comment on it. The transportation plan covers just about everything from sidewalks to light rail. The document will be in draft form until January and is available on the [www.psrc.org](http://www.psrc.org) website.

Ms. O'Reilly said it is significant that special needs transportation will have a chapter in the multi-county report. She noted that the section titled "Geography, Urban and Rural" acknowledges that public transit cannot provide for every need. Not everyone can use public transit for various reasons. The Access van system is quite expensive, averaging about \$36 per trip. The recommendation is to develop more flexible options to help people get around.

Ms. O'Reilly called attention to the section titled "Puget Sound Regional Council Role" and noted that in the first paragraph the focus is on maintaining an open dialog between special needs transportation funding agencies, providers and brokers by facilitating a discussion at the regional level. She said it is a very good thing to have that statement included.

In addition to the Transportation 2040 plan, the Puget Sound Regional Council is developing a plan called the "Coordinated Human Services and Public Transportation Plan." The report will be blended into the overall plan, but will need to be submitted on its own to the Federal Transit Authority in order to have several different pots of money flow to the region. Because there are four different counties involved, there are four sub regional planning councils involved. When the final draft is available, it will be shared with the Network for review.

The King County Special Needs Transportation Steering Committee has some 25 members representing various focus areas, including older adults, people with disabilities, youth, and low income residents. Ms. O'Reilly said she is co-chairing the steering committee and represents east and north King County. There have been some openings on the committee lately, including for faith communities; she said Ms. Rasnack was recently approached about joining, and a decision is set to be made soon.

Mr. Dilley asked if in the end it will be health, housing or transportation that will be given priority for the limited funding. Ms. O'Reilly said much will depend on how the healthcare reform work proceeds at the federal level. The current thinking is that the Governor's budget, set to be released soon, will not include funding for basic health, which is what is keeping afloat many low-income folks who do not qualify for Medicaid. How things will turn out is anyone's guess.

## DISCUSSION: End of Year Celebration/Potluck

Ms. VonWald noted that she had sent out to the Network members a document outlining the list of accomplishments for 2009. She asked to be made aware of any items she may have inadvertently left off of the list.

Ms. VonWald also stated that beginning with the first meeting in 2010 the Network will be meeting in Room 112. The room is larger, which will accommodate having all the Network members sit around the table and still have room for guests.

Ms. VonWald took a moment to thank everyone who worked on the legislative meet and greet, and for all who showed up. The event went very well.

Ms. VonWald recognized Ms. Gray for her work on the elder abuse video, which is currently showing on BTV.

New members Peg English, Richard Englund and Cindy Sharek were introduced; it was noted that Beverly Heyden had a conflicting engagement and was not able to attend. The retiring Network member Dwayne Dilley was also recognized and thanked for his contributions.

ADJOURN

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.