

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

February 3, 2011  
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E -112

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beverly Heyden, Blake Werner

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Claudia Balducci, City Councilmember; Margaret Schwender, Eastside Time Bank

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 Beverly Heyden & Blake Werner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 6, 2011 - Retreat

Mr. Englund noted that he appreciated the minutes in the abbreviated format and noted that they are a lot easier to read.

**Motion to approve the minutes as amended was carried unanimously.**

SOUND TRANSIT EAST LINK UPDATE DISCUSSION

Claudia Balducci, City Councilmember, who is the City of Bellevue appointed representative on the Sound Transit Board stated that the East Link Project is in its' 5<sup>th</sup> year of planning. The vote to fund the project was in 2008. Sound Transit is currently in the final environmental study phase of the plan for the various alignments. It will be June-July when the project alignment will be selected. After that, the design phase will take a couple of years and they will then start construction in 2013. The project is slated to begin operations in 2021.

The big debate at the time is which direction the route alignment will take. It will go across I-90 with a stop on Mercer Island. From there it will go off of I-90 and there are 3 segments: B, C & D. B is south of downtown (just south of Main Street) – the big debate is whether to go east or west. C – Downtown alignment – debate as to whether there should be a tunnel or surface alignment through downtown. D segment goes out through the Bel-Red area and on to the Overlake Park & Ride area of Redmond. The decisions yet to be made are alignment and station locations. There are several more months to make this determination and there will be

several opportunities to give input on the decision. There will be opportunities in April, June and July. Claudia will get the dates to Cathy to pass on to you so you can give your input.

Mr. Katz asked about the hospital station placement. It was originally supposed to stop at the hospital. Why was it moved from there? Councilmember Balducci stated there were two route considerations but it was decided to drop all alignments on 12<sup>th</sup> St. because the expense and the disruption of that length of track in downtown, which would be twice as long with this option as the track in the other option along 6<sup>th</sup> St. The City Council couldn't decide on which route to go with so they let Sound Transit decide. Sound Transit decided on the B route because of expense and it being less risky.

In response to Mr. Katz asking about why you would have people crossing the street. Councilmember Balducci said that they would have to put in a pedestrian bridge & hopefully a bike trail.

Mr. Englund asked about the feasibility of using 10<sup>th</sup> St. instead for the route. Council-member Balducci said the issue with 10<sup>th</sup> St. is that it is not wide enough. She said it isn't the overpass itself but the space between Overlake and Group Health. The Council looked at all of the options but the engineers felt it was not feasible.

Ms. Robinson asked if Sound Transit had determined "who we are serving" with the East Link Project? Council-member Balducci said that it is designed to serve the commuters. Where routes and stations go is determined by where commuters are (employment centers first and residential secondarily). Ms. Robinson concluded that the East Link project was not designed to serve older adult population. It's great to have a commuter train but we should serve the other populations in another way. Councilmember Balducci went on to explain that this is the spine of the system (point to point) and is designed to have other systems work off of this. This is why the city has been so interested in the downtown circulator. Not to replace the spine but to work to get people where they need to go. That is why the circulator route was recommended to run not only in the downtown area but also to the hospital area. She said that the group should continue advocating for the circulator. She also said that the circulator would have to come out of the City's general fund. Several years ago the City advocated changing the laws to allow cities to provide local transit service. Hopefully, when the City has the money this project can be developed.

Mr. Katz stated that he went to give a presentation to Sound Transit regarding the station and was disappointed to find that they seemingly had already had made up their mind. Councilmember Balducci said that you need to go early and give input as early in the process as possible.

Mr. Keeney asked who we should talk to in order to give input. Councilmember Balducci said it really depends on the issue. With regard to the hospital station, input should be directed to the Sound Transit Board Chair and members. With regard to transit in the City, input should be directed to the City Council. It really just depends on the issue.

Ms. VonWald indicated that the Network on Aging hasn't taken any position on the route. They have mainly been interested in the location of the hospital station.

Councilmember Balducci said that every other Monday there is an item on the City Council agenda for Boards & Commissions to speak. She suggested that the Network plan to attend and update the Council on older adults issues at least once each quarter. Any individual concerns can certainly be e-mailed to council members.

## EASTSIDE TIME BANK PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Chair Rasnack welcomed Margaret Schwender to present the Eastside Time Bank Program.

Ms. Schwender said that her Time Bank PowerPoint is available to everyone.

Eastside Time Bank is a new non-profit organization formed by Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue, Hopelink, Kirkland Rotary & faith communities. They are currently under fiscal sponsorship with Hopelink. The way the program works is that you spend time doing something for someone else. That time goes into the time bank. You then have a time dollar to spend on something for you. A database is kept with all members, debts and dollars available. You can arrange for exchanges online or via e-mail. Time bank helps match unmet needs with unused resources in a self-organizing way.

You don't have to be an expert to offer something. Think of how you might help your neighbors and what things you enjoy doing. Example: gardening, budgeting, massage, minor home repair, errands, transportation, pet care, housekeeping, etc. Time Banking is not subject to income taxes because it is not considered bartering. There are annual membership dues that are donations and they can be paid with your accumulated time dollars. There is a background check completed on all members as part of the application process. L&I and supplemental insurance is provided to members.

Participants are encouraged to personally meet at either the monthly potlucks, via e-mail, face to face in a public location, or whatever is most convenient and comfortable. Participants are encouraged to do one exchange per month. Prior to receiving a service you need to ascertain the competency of server and whether it meets your expectations. All expenses & materials are to be paid by the recipient. Participants must be 16 years or older. The website is [www.eastsidetimebank.org](http://www.eastsidetimebank.org). Mentors are available to help participants navigate the website to bank and request services. Offers/notifications are sent via e-mail, so participants should check online about 3-4 days. The maximum number of participants for this pilot project will likely be 150 members.

Churches and other organizations can be members as a group. They can bank hours for those who can't necessarily provide or offer anything in exchange. Example: members can provide services to bank hours and then a member of their organization/church who needs a wheelchair ramp can go to the time bank and use the organizations banked hours to find a contractor.

The Bellevue kickoff event will be held at North Bellevue Community Center (NBCC) on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm. Every second Thursday of the month is the member potluck, 6:30-7:30 and new member orientation 7:30-8:30.

Mr. Keeney asked how someone might do work and then donate those hours to another person in need. Ms. Schwender said that for liability reasons the person who you donate hours to needs to be a member of the organization.

Mr. Katz recommended that Eastside Time Bank present to the NBCC Senior Advisory Board. Ms. Robinson said that Silver Glen would be a great group for this presentation also.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Housing

Ms. Robinson indicated that the Housing Committee met. They will be contacting Janet Lewine, PCD to get an update on code changes for ADU's (Accessory Dwelling Units). The committee will be updating the Network on this subject on a regular basis. The Committee will look at all of the issues with ADU's and come up with a recommended position.

We would like to have a strategy to go to the City Council on a regular basis. The Advocacy Committee could possibly track this for the group. It is a real opportunity to get issues in front of the City Council. Ms. VonWald will confirm the time allotted for speakers from the Boards & Commission.

### B. Outreach

This group met on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Grote and Ms. Kimball will co-chair this Committee. Thank you to Diana Thompson for a great job in the past.

On February 28<sup>th</sup> the committee will meet with representatives from Police, Fire and Code Enforcement to determine the scope of the issue of non-emergency calls and discuss other issues related to older adults and first responder. Ms. Gray recommended inviting Overlake Senior Care to this meeting since they have a tremendous amount of resources. Ms. Kimball, noted that this is the initial meeting before inviting additional people/groups to the table. After the initial meeting we will figure out whether we need an additional meeting and invite, Senior I & A and others.

The Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon is happening at North Bellevue Community Center next Wednesday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30. Please RSVP to Cathy if you plan on attending.

The Committee discussed the staffing of the Network on Aging table at the Bellevue Arts & Craft Fair, the 2011 Outreach calendar, and the continuation of the Vial of Life.

Ms. Robinson and others attended the Martin Luther King Event at Crossroads Mall. At the event, Ms. Robinson was able to talk to the crowd about Bellevue Network on Aging and the Vial of Life. There was steady traffic and it was a good experience.

### C. Advocacy

Ms. Thompson, Chair, gave the Committee report. On the local level, it was discussed to continue advocating as needed for Sound Transit & the circulator bus. The Network will be involved in the hospital station design.

At the State level, Ms. Thompson reminded the Network of their Legislative Agenda that was developed in November/December. February 24<sup>th</sup> the Washington State Senior Lobby is hosting Senior Lobby Day. Several members will be attending and are currently setting appointments to meet with legislators. Some Network appointments will be shared with Aging and Disability Services and some with AARP. The main talking point should be to sustain funding for critical services.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

### A. Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative

Will be meeting next week and will have more information after that meeting.

### B. Eastside Human Services Forum

Ms. VonWald said EHSF received an update on “Aging Your Way” and initiative of Senior Services. Senior Services has been organizing a series of Aging Your Way gatherings in different geographic areas meeting with the 50+ age group. At the end of each gathering Senior Services facilitates action teams to take on projects identified at the gatherings. An Eastside gathering is planned for sometime in May. Information will be shared with Network when it is available. Ms. Robinson noted that it would be helpful for the Network to review the format and questions and asked if it would be possible to add more questions or items. Ms. VonWald will check on that and share the information with the Network.

### C. Other Boards/Commission Reports

None

## STAFF REPORT

Ms. VonWald introduced Teri Ekstrom from Parks & Community Services – Human Services who will be doing the minutes for the group.

Ms. VonWald noted that at the retreat it members discussed having a Bylaws Ad Hoc committee. Mr. Englund, Mr. Katz and Ms. Thompson volunteered.

King County Veterans Levy will be up for renewal this year. More information and opportunities for input will be available.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Katz noted that the Senior Services fund raising breakfast was in April in Seattle. He mentioned that the North Bellevue Advisory Board is paying for one of their members to attend this event and asked if anyone from the Network would be interested in attending. He will request that they NBCC Advisory Board pay for a Network member to attend. Ms. Thompson and Ms. Grote expressed interest.

Ms. Robinson asked whether we need to further discuss the circulator bus. Ms. Seltzer noted that the Circulator will be discussed at the Easy Rider Group meeting next week.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

None

## UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be on March 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 8:30 am.

Mr. Katz asked whether the Network was interested again in having Attorney General Rob McKenna present the matter of Vulnerable Adults and Elder Abuse. There was a consensus to have Mr. Katz contact the Attorney General and set a date.

ADJOURN

Chair Rasnack adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.