

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

August 7, 2008
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynne Robinson, Jim Messner, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Catherine Brallier, Dwayne Dilley, Howard Katz, Gary Dickerman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christina Coulter, Stephen Lam, Eve Stern, Diana Thompson, Marjorie Todd

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

OTHERS PRESENT: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Chair Robinson who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Christina Coulter, Stephen Lam, Eve Stern, Diana Thompson and Marjorie Todd.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 5, 2008

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Ms. Seltzer. Second was by Ms. Brallier and the motion carried, with Mr. Katz casting the only no vote.

3. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ms. VonWald provided the Network members with copies of the by-laws and referred to Article 3(B), composition of the Network. She noted that the Network shall consist of no less than nine and no more than 15 members, and pointed out that currently there are 13 members. She further noted that according to Article 3(C), a nominating committee is to be formed annually for the purpose of establishing nominees for Network membership.

In addition to the two Network vacancies, there are four members whose terms will end in December 2008; Ms. VonWald stated that if those four members wish to continue, they will need to reapply and be approved by the nominating committee.

Mr. Katz asked if there is opportunity for the Network members to review the by-laws and make changes. Ms. VonWald said the Network can make changes and suggested that would be a good topic to be discussed at the annual retreat in January.

Answering a question asked by Mr. Dickerman, Ms. VonWald explained that according to the by-laws, membership on the Network is limited to Bellevue residents or business persons. Fifty-one percent of the members must be over the age of 50.

Mr. Katz stressed the need for the nominating committee to seek out persons with specific expertise, interest and experience that would benefit the Network. Ms. VonWald agreed that that is an important item to keep in mind, but noted that the by-laws do not make that a requirement.

It was agreed the nominating committee should have three members and a representative from the Park Board, along with appropriate staff. Mr. Katz, Ms. Rasnack and Mr. Dilley agreed to serve as the nominating committee.

Ms. VonWald reminded the Network that the chair is selected at the first regular meeting of the year following the annual retreat. She pointed out that the chair must be someone who has been on the Network for at least a year, and can be the previous year's chair.

4. NEIGHBORHOOD SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT AND EVENT REPORT/EVALUATION

Ms. VonWald reminded the Network that it had previously appointed a small group to develop marketing materials to have on display at community events. She said the group determined that it would be helpful to have an identifier, so fleece vests have been purchased to be worn at events, each with the city of Bellevue logo and the words "Bellevue Network on Aging." The marketing group also developed and had printed bookmarks to be handed out along with printed materials explaining the mission and purpose of the Network along with a listing of current projects.

It was stated that Mr. Messner and Ms. Thompson attended the Strawberry Festival at Crossroads on June 28 to represent the Network. Chair Robinson went to the Fourth of July festival and will also attend the Vucrest Homeowners Association meeting on August 14 to make a presentation. Other presentations are scheduled.

Ms. VonWald said a roll-up display is being created and will be available to put on display at events and meetings.

Ms. VonWald said a professional trainer has been found who is willing to donate her time to the Network to teach a class on making public presentations. She suggested that instead of covering the regular Network business in October, the focus should be on a two-hour training session. The alternative would be to add an extra meeting just for the speaker training.

There was agreement to schedule a separate meeting for the training, and the date tentatively selected was September 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

There was also agreement to reschedule to October 2 regular meeting to Friday, October 10.

7. STAFF REPORT

Ms. VonWald reported that the Vial of Life campaign has been wildly successful. She said Ms. Thompson and Mr. Katz have been working diligently on getting it out to everyone. The program has been taken to every fire station, the police departments, Service First, the mini city halls, the community centers, and there was a press release in the *Bellevue Reporter*. In addition, the program has been taken to Silver Glen, Crossroads Condominiums and Vasa Creek. Overlake Hospital knows about the program and how to get people connected to it, as does the YMCA.

Mr. Katz said he has been trying to get the program distributed through Congressman Reichert's office, but they have a senior bill coming out that would require older adults to carry identification, and his office thought there might be a conflict.

Ms. VonWald said the annual softball challenge was held on July 16 and everyone had a great time, except for Mr. Katz who received a minor injury while serving as umpire.

Ms. VonWald announced that the Together for Women's Health luncheon at Overlake Hospital will be held on September 18 at Meydenbauer Center from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Network has been asked to have an information table at the event. She invited Network members to stop by and help out.

Copies of *Bellevue By the Numbers*, a community calling guide put out by the Neighborhood Outreach Center, were made available to the Network members.

Ms. VonWald said she had one copy of the King County Department of Community and Human Services 2007 annual report for anyone who might want to peruse it. She also noted that the Network and its members are all listed in the latest edition of Seniors Digest, which is put out by Aging and Disability Services.

Aging and Disability Services, in cooperation with Pierce County Aging and Long-term Care, has scheduled an aging readiness legislative conference for September 17 in Tukwila. Information about the free all-day event is available in the Senior Digest.

Ms. VonWald reported that she sits on the state Council on Aging. She said the organization is gearing up to conduct some aging readiness forums throughout the state, the first of which will be in the Spokane valley in the fall. The Governor intends to follow it all up with an aging summit in 2009.

The end of the summer picnic hosted by the North Bellevue Senior Center is slated for August 20. Ms. VonWald said there will be a variety of different exhibit tables and said she would like to include a table for the Network on Aging. The event will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Mr. Dickerman and Mr. Dille volunteered to man the table.

8. BNOA/Kirkland Senior Council Joint Committee Report/Aging Providers Coalition Report

Mr. Katz reported that the Vial of Life project has become the focus of the joint operation between Bellevue and Kirkland. He said the process of determining what all should be included in the Vial of Life program involved representatives from both organizations, but the voting edge belonged to Kirkland in that their representatives outnumbered the representatives from Bellevue; Mr. Katz suggested it would be good for Bellevue to have additional representatives. The joint assemblage should at some point discuss advocacy for older adults on the Eastside.

Ms. VonWald said she and Ms. Rasnack have been participating in developing the countywide Aging Providers Coalition group. The focus to date has been on refining the purpose statement. It was just recently learned that the Eastside Human Services Forum will be reconvening in September to talk about an Eastside older adults group. It remains to be seen if that effort will be duplicative in any way.

Mr. Dickerman asked if there will be any impact on the work of the Network stemming from the funding cutbacks by King County for human services. Chair Robinson suggested that

being involved the various groups that are forming will be very important. She added that it will be very important to have regular updates about the activities of the various groups.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Transportation

Mr. Dickerman said the transportation committee did not meet during July, though Ms. Seltzer attended an EERC meeting on September 24.

Ms. O'Reilly said at the EERC meeting part of the focus was on another request for proposals for funding through the Puget Sound Regional Council for special needs transportation. The group is working with Hopelink to look at applying for funds; the application is due September 15.

Mr. Dickerman said attended the recent grant writing seminar hosted by the Puget Sound Regional Council. Ms. O'Reilly also attended the event.

Ms. VonWald said a representative from Hopelink recently provided city staff with Travel Ambassador training. Staff from Neighborhood Outreach, Service First and Parks were involved. Assistant Parks Director Terry Smith received the training and has determined that the training should be mandatory for all parks staff.

B. Housing

Ms. Rasnack said the housing committee did not meet during July either. However, the group did draft the letter to Councilmember Noble that was previously approved by the Network. The letter thanked Councilmember Noble for his comments on the Bel-Red project supportive of older adult and affordable housing.

C. Support Services

Chair Robinson reported that support services recently conducted another forum and has met with representatives from King County, 2-1-1, senior information assistance, Overlake Hospital, Evergreen Hospital, and Group Health Hospital to share with them the powerpoint presentation. The feedback received was excellent and helpful. A dialog has been initiated among the various players about how seniors can get equally good information regarding their needs regardless of which organization they call. It was clear from the meeting that 2-1-1 does not want to be promoted and does not want to be the first number called; they are a crisis line for all manner of issues and their preference would be for seniors to call senior information and assistance.

Mr. Katz said it was learned that Senior Services does not receive many calls from the Eastside, which could be interpreted as people on the Eastside do not know where to turn. Chair Robinson said that could mean Eastside seniors are getting their information somewhere else. She said the powerpoint presentation will be modified to include calling information for all of the Eastside hospitals.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Ms. Rasnack asked if a date has been set for the Home Sweet Home Fair. Ms. VonWald informed her that it will be held on November 8 at City Hall. She suggested that the Northwest Universal Design Council should have a table at the event.

11. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Robinson said she recently learned that in the fall the utilities department of the city will be conducting a promotion for what to do in an emergency. She suggested the Network should development a little something to promote. Ms. VonWald said the city has some excellent neighborhood programs for emergency preparedness; she suggested they could be promoted. It was agreed to put the item on as a future agenda item.

12. ADJOURN

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.