

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

January 16, 2014
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Aznoff, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Howard Katz, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Chris Strand, Diana Thompson, Mary Watkins, Terri Wilson, Janet Zielasko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ethan Crawford, Jullie Gray, Peg Jones, Hannah Kimball, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, Susan Posten

STAFF PRESENT: Bophary Du, Cathy VonWald and Shelley Brittingham, Department of Parks & Community Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Debbie Lacy, Retreat Facilitator

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The BNOA Retreat was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Debbie Lacy, retreat facilitator. Committee member introductions were made and all members were present with the exception of Ethan Crawford, Jullie Gray, Peg Jones, Hannah Kimball, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, and Susan Posten.

REVIEW BNOA GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2013

Outreach Committee (reported by Diane Thompson)

Outreach Committee has been directed to identify needs of seniors, to promote awareness of these needs and available resources for seniors and to help meet the needs of seniors.

BNOA sponsored information tables at many community fairs to make people in the community aware of BNOA's activities and resources. These events and locations included the Overlake Hospital Active Senior Fair (this year on 2nd Saturday in March), Crossroads and Downtown Bellevue Farmers Markets, Chinese Information & Service Center Resource Center Fair, Elder Friendly Conference at the University of Washington, the Church of Latter Day Saints, and the YMCA.

Committee members helped to make the community aware of elder abuse by giving a presentation to the City Council in June. Ms. Thompson attended the King County Elder Abuse Conference and gave a report on it. Members gathered information on the needs of seniors,

assisted with the Community Conversations to gather information for the Human Services Needs Update and met with Circle of Friends and YMCA.

Info on BNOA was put in utility bills for outreach. Members worked with other jurisdictions that have boards/commission on senior issues and coordinated with Mercer Island Senior Board and Kirkland Senior Council to align missions and develop partnership opportunities. The committee spoke to the Issaquah Human Services Commission about aging in Bellevue. Ms. VonWald helped the committee get involved in senior discount cards called Gold Cards, which are being distributed at the North Bellevue Community Center.

Advocacy Committee (reported by Diana Thompson)

The purpose of the Advocacy Committee was to advocate for the interests of seniors at the city, county, state and federal levels. The committee shared a legislative agenda with Kirkland, with examples of advocacy work included monitoring bills during the legislative session and visited state legislators in Olympia on Senior Lobby Day (this year on February 20th). Ms. Thompson has started making appointments to see legislators this year, stating that “seniors in Washington are coordinated in regard to the State Legislative agenda, [which] is why as a whole seniors are effective in getting people to lobby.”

There has been a lot of activity in the Federal agenda with the Hospital Observation Status. The committee has been supporting legislation that would change hospital observation, meeting with Congressman Smith & staff; two times with Representative Reichert, who suggested contacting Kevin Brady regarding observation status. Toby Edelman’s office is attempting to make an appointment with Kevin Brady.

In May and June, there were proposed regulations on hospital observation and the committee sent in comments. The Network opposed using social security to balance the budget. In September, the committee met with Representative DelBene regarding chained CPI for Social Security and the medical observation status. She is now a co-sponsor of the bill HR 1179.

Other committee activities included meeting with Senator Murray’s office; teaming up with Aging and Disability Services on the hospital observation status issue; coordinating with EHSF and Kirkland on our Legislative agenda; and attending a Senior Lobby Conference in October. Ms. Thompson and Mr. Corsini worked a booth at the UW Elder Friendly Future’s Conference, and in December, the committee had its semi-annual conference with state legislators. Representative Litzow has a phone conference call that is open to the public to which Ms. Grote and Ms. Thompson sent in questions, but the entire call should be very educational.

Transportation/Housing Committee (Ms. Wilson reported)

The committee reviewed the Housing and Transportation Elements of the Comprehensive Plan and developed a list of items to support in the update of the plan and submitted it: members took part in the Sound Transit and City meetings regarding light rail station design; served on the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative for 2013; worked cooperatively with ARCH to update the housing website; participated in the two part EHSF conference to end homelessness; rallied for lower income housing attached to development of housing and apartments; and attended the Bellevue Network on Aging

Aging and Disability Services Forum on Transportation at the Northshore Senior Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 5, 2013

There was a motion to approve minutes as written and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE FOR 2014

Ms. Lacy facilitated development of BNOA committee structures for 2014 asking: Do we have the right committee structure for 2014? Is there something else that we should be doing? Are we structured correctly? Any ideas for new committees that you think we need?

Ms. Thompson's input was to possibly emphasize things that assist seniors living in Bellevue such as more benches in public areas, which would fall under the Transportation Committee.

Ms. Thompson suggested a possible new committee might be a "think" committee. The last legislature established an aging and disability service committee and placed information online. This new group could read this information, research it and see where information would fit into BNOA. It could just be education and research and present information to the group, like a Research/Education Committee.

Mr. Aznoff asked if there was a committee to help people become aware of resources available to them. This was thought to be suited to the Outreach Committee.

Ms. Wilson said that as we decide on what committees we will be on we need to decide when each committee will meet. Sometimes the timeframe and meeting schedules don't work with everyone's schedule. So keep this in mind when deciding on what committee to work on.

Ms. Thompson indicated that it was great when Ms. VonWald could attend the meetings. In regard to meeting dates and times, we need to find a time that works for everyone to attend. Ms. VonWald said that whatever time works for the members will work for staff and suggested that it could help staff if the committees met at the North Bellevue Community Center.

The standing committees are Outreach, Advocacy, and Housing/Transportation. The concern with adding new committees is that there might not be enough people to attend them. The topic of education and research came up again, with discussion and voting on whether it should be its own committee (0 votes) or be a component of the standing committees (10 votes) or be a part of the Outreach Committee (1 vote). It was decided that an education component would be included with each standing committee and report to the whole group.

BREAK

COMMITTEE GOALS & WORK PLANS

The large group broke into committee groups to brainstorm and identify potential projects and priorities and decide which ones will be part of the 2014 work plan; decide on a chair for each committee; and come up with a 1-2 word resolution for 2014.

2014 BNOA Committees established as follows:

Advocacy Committee – Meeting 1st Monday at 8:30 am @ City Hall

Members: Diana Thompson (Kick-Off Chair), Chris Strand (Chair in Training), Eileen Rasnack, Janet Zielasko, Susan Posten, Jullie Gray, Howard Katz

Committee Resolution for 2014: Inclusive, Shared Responsibility, Comprehensive, Passionate

Priorities:

- Legislative Forum
- Local Advocacy Issues
- Survey Senior Needs
- Legislative Agenda

Outreach Committee – Meeting 3rd Tuesday at 9:00 am @ City Hall

Members: Dan Aznoff (Chair), Jeanne Grote, Diana Thompson

Committee Resolution for 2014: Outreach and input

Priorities

- Work with other city's senior groups
- Overlake Senior Fair (March 8th), Strawberry Festival Fair
- Farmers Markets – Crossroads & Downtown
- SASH Group
- Utility bills
- Gold cards, strengthen education, Vial of Life
- Education – marketing of what offered, community conversations (ask Alex O'Reilly to help identify 2-3 questions to ask at Fairs, etc.)

Transportation/Housing Committee – Meeting 4th Monday at 9:00 am @ NBCC

Members: Terri Wilson (Chair), Howard Katz, Berta Seltzer, Beverly Heyden, Mary Watkins

Committee Resolution for 2014: Educated decisions

Priorities

- benches at bus stop w/covering; lighting at bus stops
- educate (Janet)
- update ARCH website
- Metro transportation cuts
- Education – 1. Planning? Who first?

Committee Meetings – Tips for Success:

- Send agenda to committee in advance (reminder). Set agenda items at end of each meeting
- Consider calling members who don't reply to meeting invitation, or who haven't been coming

- Agenda Items (General):
 - o Actions accomplished/Progress
 - o Any challenges? Resources/Help
 - o Share “Did you know . . . ?” items (research/education)
- Bring Work Plan to each meeting
- Who, What, When, How
- Check in with each other on a regular basis

Final thoughts for the meeting included: Mr. Katz indicated that BNOA lost its contact to the 41st congressional. Congressional contact is needed to attend BNOA meetings. The Attorney General is needed to attend a regular meeting at some point in early 2014.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.