

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

November 6, 2014
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Aznoff, Ethan Crawford, Jullie Gray, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Howard Katz, Bill Merriman, Susan Posten, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Chris Strand, Diana Thompson, Mary Watkins, Janet Zielasko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Peg Jones, Hannah Kimball, Bob Megargel, and Terri Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: Bo Du, Parks & Community Services Department
Alex O'Reilly, Human Services Department

OTHERS PRESENT: Jake Bernstein, Attorney General's Office; George Twiss, Senior Services; Alan Abe, King County Emergency Medical Services; Hank Myers, Redmond City Council; Patrick Chiarelli, Congressman Adam Smith's Office; Casey Fleming, PLU Student

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair Rasnack. Roll was taken and all members were present with the exception of Peg Jones, Hannah Kimball, Bob Megargel, and Terri Wilson.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Pat Chiarelli from Congressman Adam Smith's office reintroduced himself to the group and said to let him know if anything is needed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 2, 2014

A motion was made to accept the minutes as written and the motion was seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The meeting started with the Committee Reports, until the Attorney General Bob Ferguson arrived.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee (reported by Ms. Du)

The nominating committee recommended reappointments of current members: Jullie Gray, Jeanne Grote, Dan Aznoff, Hannah Kimball and Mary Watkins (*moved from liaison member*) as full-time, voting members to additional 2 year terms, expiring December 2016.

The Nominating Committee recommended approval for the appointments of new members Arnold Kern, Linda Salter, and Bill Cahill to serve 2 year terms, expiring December 2016.

Background Information: Seven applications were received. Six applicants were interviewed, one withdrew from consideration, and three are recommended for membership as they demonstrated the best matches in knowledge and experience.

Bios of new members:

Arnold Kern - retired Bellevue resident and community volunteer

Linda Salter- Bellevue resident, holds a PhD, published on older adult topics

Bill Cahill - retired Boeing professional, currently working in real estate in Bellevue

Ms. Zielasko asked whether a diverse group of applicants were received. Ms. Du replied that she reached out to the community through various city liaisons for some diverse candidates but the applicant pool was not diverse.

There was a motion to accept the nominating committee recommendations. The motion was seconded. There was a vote, which passed unanimously.

Outreach Committee (reported by Jeanne Grote)

The meeting last month was at North Bellevue Community Center. Ms. Grote staffed a table at the Bellevue Essentials Resource Fair on October 23rd and received good feedback from participants and attendees. Members also attended the candidate forum on October 13 and had good feedback on older adult issues.

Mr. Aznoff said that the group talked about working on memory/dementia issues and it was twofold: 1) provide resources for caregivers and 2) to support early memory loss classes, such as the Alzheimer's Café. Members are working with Overlake and Evergreen hospitals on the issue.

The Frye Art Museum program tour is scheduled for December 16th at 1:00 pm, with RSVPs by November 10th with Ms. Du.

Mr. Katz stated that hospital observation was discussed at the Legislative Forum and it will be discussed more during the Advocacy Committee report.

Transportation/Housing Committee (reported by Jeanne Grote)

Bellevue Network on Aging

November 6, 2014

Page 2

Members are continuing with the outreach of Mobile Orca stations at North Bellevue Community Center and are updating the ARCH website.

Advocacy Committee (reported by Diana Thompson)

The Legislative Forum was held on October 13th. Hospital observation was put on the agenda. Prior to the meeting, advocacy members spoke with Representative Clibborn about this issue. She will be drafting some legislation for hospitals to give notice to patients and Representative Ross Hunter indicated that he would support it. There were seven legislative candidates who attended the forum. The speaker who spoke on caregivers did a great job.

The City of Bellevue is including \$200,000 in the CIP budget for a hearing accessibility study and implementation of selected hearing technology/access in the Council Chambers, council conference room, youth theatre, and botanical gardens. Although there were some factual errors in the budget proposal about telecoils, BNOA members still support the budget package.

Ms. Rasnack will write a thank you letter to the City Council for their support on older adult issues. The third and final budget hearing at council will be on November 17th and Ms. Thompson may make a presentation.

The Senior Citizens Lobby Conference was very good. There is a shortage of funds in part due to McCleary education mandate. A proposal was presented for a capital gains tax a form of taxation in which revenue will increase as the economy gets better. Most people would not have to pay this tax, but it is an option on the table to help with the revenue shortage.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BOB FERGUSON [PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION]

Ms. Du introduced Washington State's 18th Attorney General (AG) Bob Ferguson. As the State's chief legal officer, AG Ferguson is committed to protecting the people of Washington against powerful interests that "don't play by the rules." He is focused on standing up for consumers and defending taxpayers, supporting law enforcement to keep communities safe, protecting the environment, and advocating for veterans and military families.

AG Ferguson is a fourth-generation Washingtonian, a graduate of the University of Washington and New York University law school, and a serious Husky fan. He and his wife, Colleen, are the proud parents of 6-year-old twins, Jack and Katie, who are both future Huskies.

The Attorney General's office stands up for consumers and holds businesses or organizations who defraud honest citizens accountable. His office creates legislation that goes through the regular legislative process, with over 50% of his recommendations making through the legislative process. Legislative Affairs Officer, Mike Webb, is a great person to contact for a presentation on the legislative process and AG recommendations. There are 1,000 employees in the Attorney General's office and 525 of them are attorneys. AG Ferguson introduced Jake Bernstein who is an attorney in the Consumer Protection Division of his office.

AG Ferguson shared that he believes that his office should be multi-partisan. He did not believe in “cleaning house” when he started his term as the new AG. It is important to him and the efficiency of office operations to have staff continuity, which has helped them work efficiently and independently.

The Attorney General’s Office (AGO) has partnered with AARP in consumer protection. The AGO had an RFP, which was granted to AARP, who is working to get consumer protection information out to as many people as possible.

The AGO also does litigation and succeeds. Example cases involved veterans being targeted for their benefits. The AGO has also joined with several other States in regard to Medicaid fraud. One organization that was providing care to clients was also defrauding them and the AGO filed a joint lawsuit against them and forced them to change the way they are operating their business.

Mr. Bernstein said that there is a computer virus (crypto wall 2.0) that is being sent out via email. It will encrypt personal files and then the virus creators will try to charge \$500 to unlock it. Consumers are urged to not click on any suspicious attachments and get good anti-virus software protection.

Mr. Katz thanked the AGO for coming out on a regular basis to talk with the BNOA. He spoke about the medical observation issue, saying that a bill in regard to medical observation is currently stuck in the Ways and Means Committee. Congressman Reichert will try to help it along. Mr. Katz said that members have been unsuccessful at the federal level in changing this so they are focusing on getting it changed at the state level. He shared that members are talking with Rep. Judy Clibborn who is writing legislation on the notification issue. AG Ferguson said this issue is something that his office could certainly look into.

Ms. Thompson shared that recently she went to a bank to get a CD and a fitness club for a membership and in both places they wanted her to sign on mechanical screens, which showed no terms or what they were actually signing.

AG Ferguson shared that one recommended item on his legislative agenda is to look at data breeches because there is currently no requirement for breeched organization to contact the AGO in these cases. The AGO is proposing legislation to have a larger role in data breeches. He said that once their legislative package was final, Mike Webb could come and talk with the BNOA and walk them through it. Ms. Du said she will contact Mr. Webb to get a copy and possibly get him to meet with the group.

AG Ferguson asked what Rep. Judy Clibborn was proposing in her legislation regarding hospital observation. Ms. Thompson replied that other states require that a patient who is considered to be in observation status be notified within 24 hours in writing and verbally. AG Ferguson said he would be interested in this legislation.

A question was posed to the AG about what the State has done to protect citizens from and create protocol for the Ebola virus. AG Ferguson said that they had a briefing on the issue. Airports are screening people that are coming in from susceptible countries. Five hospitals are ready

around the state to deal with Ebola cases. AG Ferguson said that the State is well prepared on this issue.

AG Ferguson said that education is a very important aspect of his department and is willing to dedicate staff time for consumer education and protection.

Mr. Merriman asked how the AGO deals with e-mail scams. AG Ferguson replied that said his office needs to be notified or they will not know about complaints and scams. He said that anyone can call 1-800-551-4636, even if they are not the victim. His office registers all of the calls and they address the ones they can with their budget. Other complaints are logged for future patterns.

Mr. Katz said that senior citizens are also getting calls for contributions. Attorney General Ferguson said that Sarah Shifley in his office focuses on charities and she can tell you what is legal and what is not. He will have her contact Ms. Du.

BREAK

Advocacy Committee (continued) (reported by Diana Thompson)

Ms. Thompson asked for members to adopt the 2015 Legislative Agenda, which had been sent out to members prior the meeting. There was a motion to approve the 2015 Legislative Agenda and it was seconded. A vote was taken and it was unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (reported by Jeanne Grote)

Meetings are the last Tuesday of every month. Members summarized their accomplishments for the year. The Orca mobile unit continues to be at North Bellevue Community Center.

Eastside Human Services Forum (reported by Alex O'Reilly)

The Eastside Human Services Forum's annual meeting will be on December 4th from 2:00-4:00 at Peter Kirk Community Center. The EHSF adopted the BNOA legislative agenda.

Time Bank (reported by Jeanne Grote)

There is a Thanksgiving Potluck on Monday, November 17th from 6:30-8:30 at Lake Washington Methodist Church.

Aging & Disability Services Advisory Council (reported by Berta Seltzer)

ADS did not meet in November so that everyone would attend Senior Lobby Day. Ms. O'Reilly said she is working with a group to see how to get the Eastside involved and working together on

issues. Regionalism is one of ADS's main goals. Ms. Seltzer said that ADS is based in Seattle and wants East King County to be as involved as Seattle is in related issues. It will be a long process.

Washington State Senior Citizens Lobby- no report.

STAFF REPORT/UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS (reported by Ms. Du)

Ms. Du said that the voting for the 2015 Chair and Vice-Chair will be next month and asked for members to email her nominations. At the December meeting, she will post the nominations and members will vote by paper, as was done in previous years.

Ms. Du thanked Ms. Jullie Gray for setting up the Frye Museum tour on December 16th @ 1:00.

There will not be any presentations at the meeting on December 4th. There will be a short meeting and then the end of year celebration with a potluck and white elephant exchange. The limit for the white elephant is \$5. Ms. Du will email potluck information.

The annual retreat will be either January 8th or 15th from 8:30-noon. Ms. Du will check with the facilitator's schedule and confirm date via email.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Grote said that North Bellevue Community Center Advisory Board had a wonderful Halloween party. They will be having a Thanksgiving dinner on November 19th and doing holiday gift wrapping at Crossroads Mall starting in December. The money from this will fund meals and other board events. She also stated that there is AARP information available for people to take.

Mr. Aznoff said that PSE has a great program where they will come out and do a light evaluation in your home and replace up to 20 light bulbs. Look at their website for information.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.