

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

March 6, 2014
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Aznoff, Ethan Crawford, Jullie Gray, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Peg Jones, Howard Katz, Hannah Kimball, Susan Posten, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Chris Strand, Diana Thompson, Mary Watkins, Terri Wilson, Janet Zielasko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman

STAFF PRESENT: Bophary Du and Alex O'Reilly, Department of Parks & Community Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Alan Abe, King County Emergency Medical Services; Cameron Duncan, Hopelink; Hank Myers, Redmond City Council and Eastside Friends of Seniors

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by Chair Rasnack and roll was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Alan Abe, King County Emergency Medical Services (KCEMS), said he was at the meeting to see if and how KCEMS can partner with the BNOA. Cameron Duncan, Hopelink, introduced himself as the new staff person working with the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative and was at the meeting to see what the BNOA was about.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 6, 2014

Ms. Posten pointed out that on page 2, line 3 from the top, read “At that time they were just starting the Elder Medication Program” and should actually read “Elder Mediation Program.” Ms. Thompson pointed out two changes on page 4 in the last paragraph, 1) where it read “covering war cases” and should say “more cases,” and 2) where it says “Congress has not agreed as to how to do this” and to delete the “as to how” and have it read “Congress has not agreed to do this.”

Since there are no objections to the changes to the minutes, the minutes are approved as changed by unanimous consent.

BELLEVUE DEMOGRAPHICS UPDATE [PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION]

Gwen Rousseau, City of Bellevue Planning and Community Development, said she would outline: population growth, demographic trends, social trends, economic trends, and housing trends.

In the overall demographics, the median age has gone up to 38.5 (it was 35.4 in 1990). The percentage of highly educated people has increased from 46% in 1990 to 61% in 2010. The city is more diverse (41%). Those that speak other languages in their home increased to 1 in 3 people in 2010. From 2000 to 2010, the Eastside population has grown by 95,000 people. Bellevue's growth since incorporation (1953 to present) is 5,950 to 132,000. It is expected to be at 155,000 by 2030. Jobs are expected to increase also. There are over 10,000 people in the downtown area and it is expected to reach 19,000 by 2030. In the Bel-Red Area there are 5,000 housing units that are expected to be built. In respect to annexations, there have been 147 annexations in Bellevue's history. Of those 147 annexations, 60% of them occurred during the 1960's. Bellevue went from 4.8 square miles to its current 33.5 square miles. The largest population growth has occurred in the downtown and Crossroads areas.

Ms. Kimball asked how the population is measured in the Bellevue College area where the population increases and decreases frequently. Ms. Rousseau stated that each household is measured by the number of people living in a house, whether or not they are related to each other.

Ms. Rousseau said that the growth in Bellevue is half from natural increase (births) and half from immigration. There is a growth in the foreign-born population from 11,500 in 1990 to over 40,000 in 2010. The percentage of foreign-born is higher in certain areas of the city. Ninety-eight percent of the population growth is comprised of minorities, which increased from 2000-2010 by 60%. In 1990, 14.7% of the Bellevue population was a minority. The Chinese population is the largest subgroup of the Asian population, with Asian Indian increasing also. Of the Asian population, the Japanese population has decreased. In 2012, 42% of the population spoke a language other than English at home. The top 10 languages are Chinese, Spanish, Korean, Russian, Hindi, Japanese, Vietnamese, Persian, French, and German. The diversity percentage goes down in the 65 and older group. One trend that is seen is that in the 45-65 and the 65 and older groups have been increasing the fastest. From 1990-2000, the growth of 65 and older grew 60%. The Crossroads area has the largest increase in children. More families have most likely moved to this area. There has also been a redevelopment in West Bellevue, increasing the number of families with children moving into the area. The Sammamish/East Lake Hills had the largest number of older adults (2,300). Older adults 85 and over increased by 67% over the last decade. There are more females in the older adult population (57% females and 43% males). Eight percent of Bellevue's overall population has a disability; and 31% of older adults in Bellevue have disabilities. The types of disabilities listed are hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory (highest percentage), self-care, and independent living.

It was asked why “independent living” was a category under disability. Ms. Rousseau said she will check out the definition for this group and e-mail the answer out. In 2006-2010, the median income was \$81,912, yet the median varied between census tracts. Forty-two percent of the older adult population had incomes of \$50K and less. There is a variation with age groups. The poverty rate increased from 5.8% in 2008 to 8.7% in 2012. Note: this is a sample area and not always exact.

The census is taken every 10 years and asks questions on age, race and home ownership on the entire population. The American Communities Survey is done annually for information between the census years on a sample of the population.

Of the household types, married couples without children are the largest part of the population. Thirty percent of households have children. The 65 years and older group has a much higher population living alone. This group also has the highest percentage that owns their home. Twenty-one percent of older adults rent. In 2006-2010, about 35% of households were paying more than 30% of their incomes on housing, which is considered unaffordable. Of this group of home unaffordability, 31% of Bellevue’s overall population own their home and 36% rent. In the 65 and older age group, 31% are homeowners and 56% rent. The median rent for Bellevue is \$1,194.

Ms. Rousseau will email her demographic presentation PowerPoint and the link to the demographic data.

Ms. Kimball asked for the definition of “ambulatory disability.” Ms. Rousseau said it being able to travel without assistance. She said she will send the definitions of all of the types of disabilities to the group. Ms. Thompson asked if the housing information includes utilities and Ms. Rousseau said she would check on this also and get back with the information.

BREAK

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach Committee (reported by Dan Aznoff)

There was a good turnout for the Outreach Committee meeting on February 25th. The Active Senior Fair is this weekend, at which BNOA will give out information. An interest list will be available for people to sign up on so that they can be informed of BNOA presentation topics and committee meetings, in case they wanted to attend. Vials of Life and senior resource lists will be available, as well. As chair of the committee, Mr. Aznoff will be writing an article on fraud for the Bellevue Reporter.

Ms. Thompson said that Smart 911 might possibly take the place of the Vial of Life. The 911 system is not currently set up in Bellevue but should be connected in May. People can still sign up for the Smart 911, however, and if an incident occurs outside of the Bellevue area, responders will be able to access information that was initially put in the system. Smart 911 is a nation-wide program, where phone numbers are linked to the system that stores health information and

responders can access that information on their way to the person having the emergency. It is a secure site.

Ms. Wilson said they need to remind people at the fair this weekend to update their Vials of Life information. Update sheets will be available. Ms. Thompson said that Smart 911 sends an e-mail every 6 months to update information. Ms. Jones said that the Vial of Life information must be put “on your refrigerator”. She learned that the bright green sheet of information from the Vial of Life is to go on the outside of the refrigerator and the rest can go inside the vial and put in the refrigerator.

Transportation/Housing Committee (reported by Terri Wilson)

Amy Sophie, Salvation Army, met with the committee. Salvation Army does a lot of great work in the community and they will be connecting with the BNOA. The committee felt that the population needs to do more to serve the needs in the community.

The group also talked about getting the BNOA information onto Facebook, the possibility of gondolas for transportation, and the Emergency Feeding Program. Ms. Wilson read the statement that was sent for the Bellevue Transit Master Plan: “With 19% of Bellevue residents being older adults and the numbers rapidly increasing in the coming years, the need for available, accessible and easy transit is vital. Transit provides active living such as entertainment, shopping, dining, doctor’s appointments, etc. Keeping seniors mobile will keep the money in Bellevue!”

The next committee meeting will be at Evergreen Court to see what they have put in place.

Mr. Katz said that there will be a CAC meeting for the Sound Transit hospital station. Sound Transit wants to have bells to indicate approaching trains, but some people cannot hear well, so including lighting as indicators will also be a plus. People have been hit by trains because they cannot hear bells due to traffic noise. Security is also an issue at the stations and Sound Transit has no intention of having police at the stations. Also, seating needs to be at certain heights. Gondolas are being considered as it might be a good option for transportation from the hospital station to the hospital, like in Portland. The meeting is March 25th from 5:00-7:00pm at City Hall and Mr. Katz hopes that BNOA members can attend to voice opinions and support. Written comments can be sent to Carol Helland, City of Bellevue Development Services Department.

Advocacy Committee (reported by Diana)

Several BNOA members attended Senior Lobby Day and there were some very interesting speakers. The group met with Representatives Tom, Clibborn, Hill, Litzow & others. Mr. Katz talked to Rep. Clibborn about medical observation. Ms. Grote said that Rep. Clibborn’s mother is aging and was very interested in senior issues and wrote the information down about medical observation.

Committee members have been visiting area hospitals to see what they tell people in regard to hospital observation when they come into hospitals. Some hospitals are giving good information

and some are not. The committee's plan is to discover what hospitals are doing and work with them on explaining hospital observation to patients. Members can also attend City Council meetings and present on hospital observation. Meetings are televised, so hopefully will get the word out.

The Transportation Ballot measure will be sent to vote on April 22th. Metro has stated that without additional funding, they will face deficits. They are hoping to raise money by increasing the sales tax by 1/10th of a cent for 10 years and increase vehicle fees to \$60. Of this money collected, 60% would maintain Metro's current levels and 40% would go to the City/County for transportation improvements. The improvements projects would have to be listed in the Regional Transportation Plan. There is also a low income rebate program in which there is \$20 off the vehicle fee for low income earners.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (Ms. Heyden reporting)

Mr. Duncan, Hopelink, said he is excited to be here and soaking up information regarding the issues. Being new, he is trying to learn about priorities and issues. A project that he will work on is scheduling the Mobile-to-Go bus at the NBCC to sign older adults up for ORCA cards. Ms. O'Reilly said there is another project in the works called "Benchmarking," which is creating a "how to" to get benches in key areas around the city where needed. The group is looking into how to get a bench put in and finding that it is very difficult. Ms. Wilson said that they also talked about benches at the Transportation/Housing Committee meeting and they are looking into the Parks & Community Services Department possibly providing the benches for this project.

Eastside Human Services Forum (Ms. O'Reilly reporting)

EHSF has an ambitious work plan this year. One item on the work plan is the communication plan that was developed, which focuses on how to reach people in the area to tell them what human services are available to them in the community. Communication might include media, letters to the editor, etc. There are currently a lot of new members on the Eastside cities' City Councils and School Board, so EHSF is hosting a breakfast for these new members to provide a Human Services Needs education and discussion.

Ms. O'Reilly said that some of the BNOA members helped to collect information for the Human Services Needs Update through the community conversations. There are hard copies of the report now available, as well as online. The chapters that are online will be updated continuously as new data comes in, with hopes that it will reveal and highlight community needs.

The Human Services Commission is developing its funding focus areas, which will help determine which applications to fund. The majority of funding will be on these focus areas and then on the continuum of service. The focus areas are supporting affordable housing and services, employment services and support, and older adults.

Time Bank (Ms. Grote reporting)

Diane Sawyer did a segment on Time Banks on TV a couple of weeks ago. A Time Bank is being set up in West Seattle. There are Time Banks on Vashon Island and Shoreline. Another auction is being planned this summer. A membership survey is being developed to see how members to be more active.

“Aging Your Way” will be on June 26th in South Seattle and Ms. Grote will be sending out an e-mail with the information for this event.

Aging & Disability Services Advisory Council (Ms. Seltzer reporting)

The next ADS meeting is next week, with meetings scheduled in different areas of the County this year. The different host sites will give a presentation to and lunch with the group.

There is a difference in the way money from Older Americans Act is being distributed according to the last census. King County will not be receiving as much money (\$450,000 less).

STAFF REPORT/UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Du thanked the volunteers that are working at the Senior Active Fair this weekend.

Ms. Du reported on the status of the BNOA Facebook page: a proposal that includes information on the stated purpose of the page and what will this page do that the current tools are not doing; identify who will manage the page, review the content and how success is measured. The proposal will then go to the New Media Group for review and decision.

Older Americans Month is May, with a proclamation scheduled on May 5th at City Council. Ms. Heyden or Mr. Merriman will present for the group.

The World Elder Abuse Awareness proclamation is scheduled on June 2nd and Ms. Thompson will present at City Council for the group.

The next meeting of the BNOA is April 3rd (same place and time) and FD Cares’ new program manager, Natasha Grossman, will present. Ms. Du thanked Ms. O’Reilly in advance for presiding over this next meeting because she will be absent.

NEW BUSINESS - none

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.