

**BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

May 1, 2014  
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E-120

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dan Aznoff, Ethan Crawford, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Peg Jones, Hannah Kimball, Susan Posten, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Diana Thompson, Mary Watkins, Janet Zielasko

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jullie Gray, Howard Katz, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, Chris Strand, Terri Wilson

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Gigi Meinig, Aging & Disability Services; Alan Abe, King County Emergency Medical Services

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Teri Ekstrom

**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by Chair Rasnack. Roll was taken and all members were present with the exception of Jullie Gray, Howard Katz, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, Chris Strand, and Terri Wilson.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

Visitor Gigi Meinig, Aging & Disability Services (ADS), said that they were going out into the County to start building relationships throughout the community. She and ADS staff talked with City of Bellevue staff regarding the Comprehensive Plan. She urged community advocates to have one-on-one or small group conversations with Mayors, City Council, Commissions, etc. regarding ideas and issues in the community. It is important for citizens to give input on what they see and what they would like to see in the community.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 3, 2014**

Ms. Thompson said she had a three changes to the minutes: 1) p. 4, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> line from bottom the “They” should be changed to “Chris”; 2) the last sentence on p. 4 should be the START program, not Stark (should read “The START Program, which helps people”); and 3) p. 4, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence should be changed to read “The committee is concerned for the fate of programs that help vulnerable seniors and two programs received funds: Long-term care

Ombudsman Program receiving \$306,000 more money and the Office of Public Guardianship (provides guardians for low-income people not able to represent and take care of themselves) received \$200,000 more money”.

There was a motion to approve the minutes as changed. The motion was seconded. The minutes with changes were approved unanimously.

### **Downtown Transportation [PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION]**

Chair Rasnack introduced Kevin McDonald, Transportation Department, who proceeded to present the Transportation Commission’s recommendations for the downtown mobility options. By City Council directives, the Transportation Commission proceeded to 1) develop policies and project descriptions, 2) refer land use items to Downtown Livability Initiative, 3) proceed with early implementation, and 4) integrate Downtown Transportation Plan with Downtown Livability Initiative in Subarea Plan and Land Use Code.

Public involvement included open houses, walking and bicycling tours, community group and public organization meetings. The group also attended seven City Council meetings and held 28 Transportation Commission meetings. The Transportation Commission’s Planning Principles were adopted by the City Council on February 6, 2012, and included: 1) plan for multiple modes of travel within and to and from Downtown Bellevue, 2) accommodate the anticipated travel demands from the 2030 land use forecast, 3) advance the adopted vision for Downtown Bellevue, 4) recognize changes in the regional and local transportation and land use environment, 5) integrate prior City Council direction, 6) provide for comprehensive public involvement, 7) minimize traffic impacts on neighborhoods, 8) involve regional transportation and planning partners, 8) leverage funding from outside sources to implement projects, and 9) utilize measures of effectiveness to evaluate potential projects.

With the downtown growing, multiple modes of travel are being planned. In 1990, there were 22,257 people in employment in the downtown area, with 70,300 estimated for 2030. Daily person trips in the downtown area totaled to 385,000 in 2010, with 665,000 estimated for 2030.

Downtown mobility options are via vehicles, transit, bicycles, and pedestrians. For vehicle mobility, the group is not looking at expanding roadways downtown; instead they will work on roadway capacity and continue to use the SCAT system to advance intelligent transportation systems technology. On the topic of on-street parking, the group will be working on permanent parking, off-peak parking and pay-for-parking. It was recommended that the revenues from pay-for-parking would go back into advancements in the downtown. Other curbside uses such as loading zones, park(ing) day, taxi stands, electric vehicle charging stations, passenger pick-up/drop off, and bicycle parking are being considered.

Downtown transit mobility depends on capacity, coverage, speed and reliability, and comfort/access/information; recommendations are being made in each of these areas. Ridership has increased from 1,447 riders in 1985, with 57,000 projected in 2030. Recommendations to transit are consistent with the draft Transportation Master Plan. A study for the high volume transit 108<sup>th</sup> street is being recommended to better accommodate all of the different transportation uses. The Transit Master Plan is currently being done.

The Transit Center needs to have some access improvements (i.e. items need to be removed from the transit center for better efficiency). For downtown bicycle mobility, the group will work on parking, getting around downtown, local and regional connections, and commuting. The recommendations for downtown bicycle facilities are: 1) to continue to implement downtown bicycle parking program to support retail and residential uses by including bicycle corrals and bike share docking stations in high demand areas, 2) to integrate bicycle access and bicycle parking with transit stops and stations, and 3) to require secure on-site bicycle parking in new development (include lockers and showers).

Ms. Zielasko wondered if recumbent bikes will be accommodated because of the increased interest in and usage of them. Mr. McDonald said that they will be accommodated in parking areas but buses do not currently have accommodations.

For downtown pedestrian mobility, the group is dealing with crosswalks, mid-block crossings, sidewalk, and through-block connections. Currently, all Bellevue crosswalks “are created equal” and the Commission feels that they should differ depending on the street and usage. Enhanced/exceptional crosswalks could be wider, have special paving, and have pedestrian signaling and weather protection. Crosswalks should also catch the attention of driver.

There will be many mid-block crossings added, with specific streets prioritized for additions. Sidewalks are adequate for the most part, but with the population increasing, they need to be widened in different areas (NE 106<sup>th</sup> St, for example). Street landscaping changes have also been recommended for certain areas.

Through-block connections, where pathways are provided, should be accessible as well as well-lit and up to ADA standards.

The next steps for the Downtown Transportation Plan are: 1) ongoing community outreach, 2) the Transportation Commission has prepared Downtown Subarea Plan policy recommendations and project descriptions, with project implementation in progress, 3) integrate Downtown Transportation and Downtown Livability in Subarea Plan and Land Use Code recommendations, and 4) provide policy, project and code recommendations to Planning Commission and City Council for adoption in 2015.

Mr. Crawford asked about projected bike maps that include periphery areas to downtown. Mr. McDonald said that 108<sup>th</sup> Ave NE will have a bike component and designs for other streets are being looked at to improve the bike lanes in and out of the downtown area. Main and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets are being redesigned for bike use and to make sure they will accommodate the different transportation uses. NE 12<sup>th</sup> Street will be a great facility for bicycling and walking, extending both east and west making a connection through the downtown.

Ms. Zielasko asked if sky bridges will be added anywhere. Mr. McDonald said that sky bridges will be added to different areas for new growth.

Visitor Alan Abe asked if new landscape features at crosswalks will allow safety in terms of drivers being able to see pedestrians. Mr. McDonald said that they will make sure pedestrians will be visible to drivers.

Ms. Seltzer commented that there is a great mid-block crossing in the Eastgate area with a sign that flashes all the time and that it would be great to change alerts occasionally.

Ms. Heyden inquired about the removal of benches at the Transit Center. Mr. McDonald said that they will be moving the benches to accommodate better access (i.e. for better flow), but seating capacity will not decrease.

Mr. McDonald expressed his appreciation of BNOA's input in the early stages and looked forward to exciting changes in the downtown area.

BREAK

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Outreach Committee (reported by Dan Aznoff)**

Mr. Aznoff thanked Ms. Grote for putting meeting notes together and helping run the meetings. Amy McGann from Overlake Hospital attended the last meeting, committed to sponsoring Vials of Life, and will be actively involved with the Overlake Hospital Transit Station and access to the hospitals.

Upcoming events outreach events are the Strawberry Festival on June 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> and the Farmers Market on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Transportation/Housing Committee (reported by Hannah Kimball)**

April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting topics included looping (pricey to add looping after the fact; it is a lot easier to install it in new construction) and the Hospital Transit Station.

Mr. Katz is very concerned about no security at this station and train signalization, among other issues. With only cameras and lights, the security concern is crime prevention. Train signalization only includes bells for the seeing impaired. With only 1% of the population with a visual impairment, the auditory signalization does not address the 17% who have hearing issues, but Sound Transit is not planning on including visual signalization (lights) for this higher number.

Committee members will personally invite Mayor Balducci and Councilmember Robinson to the next BNOA meeting. The entire City Council already receives meeting notices, so a personal invitation might be more effective.

May 14<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm is the next Citizen Advisory Committee for the Transit Station. It was indicated that the station design is pretty set. Mr. Crawford said he talked with those at Overlake Hospital, who say the station design is yet not set in stone. The Overlake Hospital person will be coming to Outreach committee meetings regularly.

Ms. Thompson said that she went to a meeting recently where a woman in a wheel chair with hearing loss was also in attendance. Because the lady was very interested in and knowledgeable

about Universal Design, Ms. Thompson wondered if she should be invited to speak at a BNOA meeting. Ms. Seltzer said that Tom Minty gave a presentation to City Council in regard to Universal Design last year. Ms. Du said that Mr. Minty is scheduled to speak at the BNOA meeting in August.

### **Advocacy Committee (reported by Diana Thompson)**

The committee has been working very hard on the medical observation issue. Ms. Thompson, Chris Strand, Carolyn Kelso and Sandra Hayes attended a meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> with Senator Murray's office. Ms. Thompson said she does not think that the legislation regarding medical observation will pass. Ms. Watkins wondered that if change cannot be made at the Federal level, could hospitals be asked to change their policies. Ms. Thompson said it might not be a good time to lobby the State about these changes. Ms. Watkins suggested including the hospitals in committee meetings. Evergreen is a community hospital and Overlake is a private hospital so they would be run differently. Ms. Rasnack said that the Advocacy Committee could talk about this on Monday at their meeting.

Ms. Thompson said the group talked about taking on the issue of accommodation of people with hearing loss. The City of Bellevue has assisted hearing devices and they only work in two of the conference rooms at city hall. They have the equipment but do not have a sign to indicate they are available. Also, the Service First Desk, where the equipment is picked up, does not have staffing after 5:00pm. A sign could be posted with the information and notice of availability could be improved.

Ms. Seltzer suggested that the network could approach the city to loop the council chambers and/or put up signs, like the City of Seattle, which is looping its council chambers. A possible solution would be to get looping included at the ground level for new buildings. Ms. Zielasko said that the city needs to know that hearing accommodations is an issue for when they do further developments. It is a good issue for the Advocacy Committee to take on.

Due to lack of interest, it is not possible to get on the Planning Commission agenda, but Ms. Du will look into how to get on the City Council agenda. It was discussed that the more voices the council hears from regarding the issue is good. Individual members or small groups are encouraged to meet with the Mayor and Councilmembers to discuss issues relating to older adults. The BNOA could attend the Council meetings on a regular basis to give updates under Board and Commission Reports on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month.

Ms. Thompson said that another issue the group talked about is having a senior center or cultural center in downtown.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS**

### **Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (Ms. Heyden reporting)**

Curt Brown, City of Bellevue Transportation, gave a great presentation and discussion on crosswalks. If there are areas in the city that needs a crosswalk, let his department know so it can be added to their log, which is then prioritized.

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

The EHSF will be having its educational forum on "Living Wage" on June 12, from 7:30-9:30am at Red Lion in Bellevue. The panel will talk about the implications of the "livable wage" issue for families/workers, business and human services agencies. Ms. O'Reilly will send the link to sign up. They could use the older adult perspective on this issue.

Ms. Kimball commented that when low-income people get a decent job, they then lose the benefits they had been receiving due to the small increase in income. Ms. Kimball asked if benefits restructuring would be included the discussion. Ms. O'Reilly replied that there is data with regard to people no longer qualifying for benefits due to increased income, but she does not know of any move toward restructured benefits. Raising the minimum wage will be only one element of the discussion and other related issues may come up at the forum, as well. One of the panel members is from San Francisco, where the minimum wage was increased, so Ms. O'Reilly is very interested in asking her its effect on human services as well as other factors.

The Human Services division received 90 human services funding applications for the \$3 millions of General Fund allocation.

### **Time Bank (Ms. Grote reporting)**

Except for in-kind services, Time Bank has lost its funding, so the focus will be at the "grass roots" level and building that way. Its auction will be on September 21<sup>st</sup> at Peter Kirk Center. The Vashon and Mercer Island Time Banks are doing well.

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

At the last meeting, there was a panel presentation consisting of five senior center directors speaking on successes and outreach for the future. Despite the structure and mission differences of all the senior centers, a common answer from the directors to meeting the needs of seniors was to have an in-house social worker, who would provide information, guidance, referral and support. The directors also mentioned that they see a lot of homelessness and spoke of its impact on the centers.

Ms. Thompson said that she attends the Senior Citizens Lobby meetings, which are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, and wonders if that report can be included in future agendas under community partnerships report. At the last meeting, medical observation and transportation were discussed. Seventy percent (70%) of their funding is Federal.

Ms. Thompson said she will be attending the City Council meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm to talk about the Older Americans Month proclamation and encourage other BNOA members to attend.

She will also be speaking to the Council on June 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Elder Abuse Awareness proclamation.

### **STAFF REPORT/UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Du said that there is a Comprehensive Plan Discussion on Diversity on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

In answer to questions posed at the last meeting, Ms. Du replied that BNOA will wait until August-September to recruit for the BNOA position vacated by Terri Wilson.

BNOA does not have a line item budget and will not be getting one. At most outreach events, BNOA is able to reserve tables at little to no cost.

The next BNOA meeting is June 5<sup>th</sup> with Sound Transit's Luke Lamon and the City of Bellevue's Kate March as presenters.

Ms. Grote mentioned that the Anti-Crime presentation is on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW BUSINESS - none**

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.