

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
MINUTES

July 2, 2015
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-121

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ethan Crawford, Jullie Gray, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Howard Katz, Hannah Kimball, Bob Megargel, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Diana Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Aznoff, Bill Cahill, Arnold Kern, Bill Merriman, Mary Watkins, Janet Zielasko

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Lassiter & Alex O'Reilly, Parks & Community Services Department

GUESTS: George Twisp, Senior Services

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 am by Chair Rasnack. Roll was taken and all members were present with the exception of Dan Aznoff, Bill Cahill, Arnold Kern, Bill Merriman, Mary Watkins, and Janet Zielasko.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 4, 2015

Ms. Seltzer indicated that on page 6 under “Aging and Disability Services” it should be changed to say “At the time, we were awarding contracts, and so no discussion or comments took place”. Ms. Thompson indicated that on page 2 in the second paragraph, second sentence, it should read “She said that they recently completed prosecuting a case in Bellevue. . .”. There was a motion to approve the minutes with the changes indicated. The motion was seconded. The minutes with the changes were approved unanimously.

BELLEVUE DEMOGRAPHICS [PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION]

Gwen Rousseau, Planning and Community Development, thanked the group for having her back to look at some of the latest demographic trends and projections. She stated that she will talk about trends in jobs/population growth, racial/ethnic diversity (languages spoken), educational attainment (occupations, earnings and income), age cohort trends. She also was going to look at

projections and the number of older adults increasing rapidly and the growing needs of older adults (cultural competence, support services, affordable & accessible housing).

Jobs in Bellevue exceeds the population. There are 138,900 jobs and there are 135,000 in population. The ratio of jobs to households is 1.4 jobs. In 1980, Bellevue had a “balanced” job to housing ratio. With the current ratio, there is a greater demand for housing. Projection for jobs by 2035 is 202,000 versus 160,400 people. Bellevue is the 5th largest city in Washington State.

Where did the growth come from? One-third are born in Washington State, one-third are from another State, and one-third are born outside the USA. The largest foreign-born population growth is mostly from Asia, Europe, Latin America, Northern America, India & China. Between 1990 and 2000 there was a 15,000 increase in foreign-born. Bellevue has an increasing diverse population. William Frey of the Brookings Institution says we are on the cusp of a “Diversity Explosion” as our older white population ages and our younger minority populations have children. In 2010, minorities comprised 41% of Bellevue’s population, up from 28% in 2000, and 15% in 1990.

With an increase in foreign-born population, the number of people who speak a language other than English at home has grown dramatically, in the past three decades reaching nearly 50,000 in 2011-2013 or 40% of the population. In the 2014-15 school year, Bellevue School District counted 87 different languages being spoken at home by their students. The top 10 languages spoken in Bellevue are Chinese, Spanish, Korean, Hindi, Russian, Japanese, French, Persian, Vietnamese, and Tagalog. The minority populations are scattered over the city in different areas.

In 1990, there were 46% of the population that had a bachelor’s degree or higher, and 54% in 2000 to 62% in 2011-2013. Of the Bellevue population 2.6% have less than a 9th grade education. There is still a range of educational attainment levels.

Mr. Katz indicated that tech companies recruit from other countries that have people with the tech skills they need. This has brought a lot of the diverse population to our area.

Mr. Megargel asked if there was a statistic that showed whether the people that come here from other countries stay or return to their country. Ms. Rousseau said that there is a mixture . . . some stay and some do return to their country. But, she said that they don’t have any stats on this. Ms. Grote said that she used to work with this population and most of them that she worked with have stayed here.

In regard to occupation and earnings, 59.2% of the Bellevue population are employed in management, business, science & arts and the median income of this group is \$92,234. Not all people in Bellevue are making a lot of money, as stereotypically thought though. There is 20.6% of the Bellevue population in the sales and office occupations making \$47,403. And, there is 12.8% in the service occupations making \$31,049. Note that about 25% of Bellevue’s households have household incomes less than 35,000.

Bellevue's median age continued to increase from 2000 to 2010, but at a slower rate, going from 35.4 in 1990 to 38.2 in 2000, to 38.3 in 2010. In 1970, 44% of the population were children and in 2010 it was 23%. In 1970, the 65 or older population was 3% and in 2010 it is 14%.

Over the past decade, the largest population increases in Bellevue have occurred in its high density neighborhoods, such as downtown and Crossroads. Significant growth has also occurred in the west, north and southeast portions of the city, while the central and eastern part of the city experiences smaller growth and in some cases small decline in population.

In contrast, the older adult population has increased in the Lakemont area, along with the Sammamish/E. Lake Hills & Crossroads areas. In 2050, the population of 65 and older is projected to double. Baby boomers are responsible for this increase. In Washington State in 2014 there were one million people 65 and older (14% of Washington's total population). The annual change in the 65 and over population is large. The 65 and older population is expected to double its size in twenty years. This represents an annual gain of about 41,600 in 2014, peaking at 49,200 per year in 2018.

This increase will have big effects on the ratios of workers to dependents. The dependency rates are increasing (dependency ratio is the working vs. non-working people). In 2010, there were 21 people aged 65 to 84 for every 100 working age people (18-64). By 2028, that figure will climb to over 30. This change will present different challenges to society and the economy.

Our population will become even more age diverse between 2020 and 2060. Ms. Rousseau will send out a link to the census information. As stated, with the 65 and above population growing there will be growing needs for support services, healthcare, etc.

Men are living longer which may have implications on the living arrangements of the older population. Because men and women are expected to survive to older ages, spouses may be able to care for one another longer. There could also be increased demand for assisted-living arrangements or institutional care for couples.

In 2011-13, one-third of Bellevue households spend 30% or more of their income on housing and the same is true for older adults. 61% of older adults who rented their home were paying more than 30% of their income on housing compared to 37% of overall households.

Ms. Rasnack thanked Ms. Rousseau for her presentation and indicated that we would take a break now.

Ms. Thompson indicated that she would like to take a vote of the group, if some members might not be returning for the second half of the meeting she would like to do it now. Members indicated we should continue and vote now so we have a quorum.

Ms. Thompson said our Federal agenda does not include support of Federal legislation which requires notice of observation status. This type of bill is NOT nearly as good as H.R. 1571/S843 which counts days spend in observation status. However, it's similar to our State bill which did

not pass. It has passed the Federal House and the Senate Finance Committee. I would like to make a motion to give the Advocacy Committee the power to ask for support of this bill and talk with Senators. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

BREAK

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Memory care (reported by Mr. Crawford)

Mr. Crawford said that in hearing the demographics information, how do our community centers plan on changing their operations? Mr. Lassiter said that our community centers are open to all cultures and we will be focusing our programming on all cultures. We also plan on changing the North Bellevue Center to serving multi-generational populations. Ms. O'Reilly said that the Diversity Initiative was passed by the City Council, and with it there were many recommendations made as to what the City should do. Because of these recommendations there were 2 additional staff hired to carry out these recommendations. We will be working with them to make sure these changes and recommendations are made. Mark Manuel, Diversity Outreach & Engagement Administrator, will be occasionally attending BNOA meetings to coordinate with us.

Mr. Crawford stated that as we go forward, we should look at the labels of disability and offer services to meet the needs of this population.

Ms. Grote said that she attended the June 23rd Alzheimer's Cafe and many of the same people attended that were at the first one. They really seem to be enjoying it and loving the music. The next one will be held July 28th. Ms. O'Reilly asked if there is a staff person that runs the group. Ms. Grote indicated that the YMCA has a staff person there.

Transportation/Housing Committee (reported by Ms. Grote)

Ms. Grote indicated that Janet Lewine, Planning & Community Development attended and gave them an update on housing. She went over the proposed affordable housing complexes in the Crossroads area. There will be a Neighborhood Forum on July 30th. She also indicated that the "Bellevue Next Door" is a great resource and it enhances neighborhood participation. The BNOA should plug into it to get information out.

Advocacy Committee (reported by Ms. Thompson)

Ms. Thompson stated that she was concerned that Centers need to offer programs for early onset Alzheimer patients in order to reach this population. Ms. Grote indicated that everyone at the Alzheimer Café indicated that they would like a flyer that showed all of the programs in the area that are available to people with Alzheimer's.

Ms. Thompson said that the Legislative Forum will be on November 18th from 4:00-6:00 pm at Kirkland City Hall. Please mark your calendars and attend.

We will be meeting with Adam Smith on Monday, July 6th at 8:30 here at City Hall in Conference Room 1E-110. Our agenda for that meeting is Medicare Observation and the Solvency of Social Security.

Ms. Thompson said she met with Jennifer Mecham, ADA/Title VI Program Administrator. They had hoped to do looping of City Hall, but there is a problem because of the metal floors.

Outreach & Diversity Committee (reported by Ms. Grote)

Ms. Grote said they participated in the June 27th Strawberry Festival. Mr. Megargel has the dates of the upcoming Farmers Markets and will send them out to the group.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS REPORTS

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (reported by Ms. Grote)

Ms. Grote reported that they had a meeting last Tuesday. The group lost their coordinator and they will be looking for a new person. They also discussed the maps that they are doing for each shelter in the area (she passed a sample of a shelter map that they had already done).

Eastside Human Services Forum (reported by Ms. O'Reilly)

Ms. O'Reilly said thank you to those that attended the EHSF Annual Event. Ms. Grote said they should be emailing all participants and sending out a link to the presentation that was given.

Aging & Disability Services (reported by Ms. Seltzer)

Ms. Seltzer that that there was no report since they were unable to attend the last meeting.

Timebank (reported by Ms. Grote)

Ms. Grote reported that the next potluck will be July 9th in Kirkland.

Washington Senior Lobby – no report.

Staff Report/Upcoming Agenda Items

Mr. Lassiter showed the group the BNOA cards and he passed a stack around for people to take what they could use. We will be looking for new members soon. We should all look at other events that the city does and attend if possible.

At the next meeting we will have Rose Finnegan, Housing for the Disabled. He wanted to get subject suggestions for future meetings.

Ms. Thompson said it would be great to have Arthur Sullivan of ARCH come and present to the group sooner, rather than later, because we might want to add the ARCH budget issue to the Advocacy Committee agenda.

It might be nice to have Cheryl from the YMCA present on dementia.

Mr. Crawford said it would be nice to meet with the cohorts in other community centers and talk about diversity / cultures / aging, etc. We could partner with them.

It was also stated that we should possibly have Lyn Court present the Alzheimer Plan to the group.

If anyone has any other subject suggestions, please email them to Mr. Lassiter.

Mr. Lassiter thanked Ms. Thompson for accepting the proclamation at the City Council meeting. She did a great job!!

New Business

Ms. Gray said she went to the Elder Abuse Council meeting in Seattle. There was a great mix of people that met with Adult Protective Services. Everyone at the meeting stated their role in working with Adult Protective Services and how they could be a resource. Everyone had their own role and it was a great opportunity to show where things were falling down. Anyone is welcome to attend the next meeting. Ms. Gray will email everyone with the time and date.

Mr. Katz said that there is a meeting with Sound Transit on July 14th at 3:30 @ Bellevue City Hall. They will be talking about the hospital station (seats, lights on platforms, security, etc.) and it would be great to have people attend.

The next meeting is August 6, 2015, City Hall Room 1E-121 from 8:30am-10:30am

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

