

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

July 3, 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, Bob Megargel, Susan Posten, Eileen Rasnack, Chris Strand, Diana Thompson, Janet Zielasko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Hannah Kimball, Bill Merriman, Berta Seltzer, Mary Watkins, Terri Wilson

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

OTHERS PRESENT: George Twiss, Senior Services

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 Hannah Kimball, Bill Merriman, Berta Seltzer, Mary Watkins, and Terri Wilson.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS - None**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 5, 2014**

Ms. Thompson said she emailed below changes to everyone:

Page 5. Under Advocacy Committee, paragraph two, sentence after the word “considered” cross out the remaining words in sentence and substitute “in the renovation and new construction of all public buildings.”

Page 5. Paragraph 3, add the following sentence: “Immediately following passage of the amendment Ms. Thompson verified with BNOA members that under the motion just passed on July 7<sup>th</sup> she could discuss looping and the Bellevue Art Museum could share her time.”

Page 7. Next to last line, change 85,000 to 850,000.

Page 7. Cross out the last sentence on page 7 that starts with Medicaid, and substitute the following: “The value of unpaid family caregivers services is 10.6 billion per year, vs 1.5 billion spent by Medicaid on Long Term Services and Supports.”

Page 8. Line two, change the second sentence to read: “The average cost to support an in-home caregiver is \$3,900 per year.”

Everyone stated that they had read them and a motion was made to accept the minutes with the changes indicated by Ms. Thompson. The motion was seconded. The minutes, with the changes, were approved unanimously.

### **Neighborhood Outreach [PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION]**

Mike McCormick-Huentelman, City of Bellevue Planning & Community Development is the Manager of Neighborhood Outreach and loves this community. Bellevue has very distinct neighborhoods and each neighborhood has its own history and character. The neighborhoods have all transitioned quite a bit over the last 20 years and the Bellevue of today looks very different than it did years ago. Neighborhood Outreach wants to help maintain and protect the quality of life in neighborhoods. There are sixteen large neighborhoods in Bellevue, of which three have been added this year. There are 122 neighborhood associations/community groups in Bellevue and lots of small neighborhoods within each large neighborhood. Sometimes the neighborhoods are developed and planned, but some older ones defined themselves geographically or historically. The Neighborhood Outreach outcomes are Quality Neighborhoods; Innovative, Vibrant and Caring Community; and Responsive Government, with the goal of improving the city’s responsiveness. If citizens have questions, they typically go to Service First at City Hall or to neighborhood groups to get their questions answered. The City has neighborhood liaisons to help neighborhoods navigate through their questions.

Mini-City Hall also fields questions from the community and has information and referrals in nine different languages. Mini-City Hall processed 2,600 people for the Utility Rate Reduction Program this year and helped 6,000 people sign up for Affordable Health Care Reform. This year, Mini-City Hall will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Neighborhood Outreach helped launch the “My Bellevue” mobile app, with which city information, community events, report issues, etc. can be accessed, without having to navigate through the city website.

Neighborhood Outreach has also helped to revitalize city organizations, such as the Downtown Business Association. There is a Neighborhood Organizing Guide available to assist people in organizing their community/neighborhood organizations.

A program that helps Neighborhood Outreach invest in neighborhoods is the Neighbor Link (Jubilee Reach) Program, which supports activities that build a sense of community and encourage shared responsibility for the quality and livability of Bellevue’s neighborhoods. These activities include celebrations (block parties), community services, neighborhood clean ups, safety, block watch, and cultural enrichment. Jubilee Reach organizes and coordinates a Day of Sharing and Caring that mobilize volunteers to help people with yard maintenance and/or

outside home repairs. Jubilee Reach will do 20 homes this year and recruits the volunteers but community members can also go on the City website and sign up to help.

Neighborhood Match is another program offered by Neighborhood Outreach, which funds small local projects to improve and beautify Bellevue neighborhoods. The City provides matching grants up to \$10,000 per project for an equal or greater match from the neighborhood in the form of cash, professional services, building materials, and/or volunteer labor. The form for this program is available online and the office contact is Ying Carlson. There is \$70,000 this year available for this program.

Neighborhood Outreach offers the Cultural Conversations Program for women who want to enhance their knowledge and understanding of different cultural practices and world views. It is a free program with light refreshments and women of all ages, faiths and cultures are encouraged to attend. Bellevue is very diverse and demographics have really shifted, so the citizens really embrace such interaction.

Bellevue Essentials is an education program for emerging community leaders, especially those who are new to public service. The program features 8 weekly evening sessions and a Saturday tour day. Participants will be exposed to the structure and inner workings of City government in many arenas. It is taught by Councilmembers, City Department Directors, and others to show how the city functions and operates and what people can do to help. Bellevue Essentials is open to anyone who lives or works in Bellevue.

Leadership Gatherings are held in February and September. Residents in Bellevue neighborhoods are invited to a gathering of neighborhood leaders. These meetings provide a place to identify neighborhood priorities, improve communication with the City, and learn to engage in neighborhood issues from other Bellevue leaders.

Neighborhood Workshops create a learning community in the neighborhoods. Topics include traffic safety, transportation, emergency preparedness, resolving conflicts, actions for a greener future, and more.

Neighborhood Outreach supports city-wide efforts to engage the community in a wide array of projects and initiatives. As a people-oriented program, Neighborhood Outreach also supports neighborhood efforts to locally engage residents on neighborhood priorities. Its monthly "Neighborhood News" newsletter is the one place where readers can find a consolidated list of all city meetings and their topics occurring for the month. Residents who subscribe online on the City website will get this automatically e-mailed monthly.

It was suggested that the Neighborhood News be inserted into the City newspaper, but due to cost, the suggestion was modified to insert a link instead so that people can access it anytime. The library was also suggested as a place for the public to pick up copies of the newsletter, to which Mr. McCormick-Huentelman said that they have a good relationship with the libraries and have all of their information there already. He mentioned that program staff has attended and are scheduled at the community farmers markets and the food truck event on August 5<sup>th</sup> at Ashwood Park.

The City of Bellevue Public Art Program called BellWether is currently on display, and Neighborhood Outreach can help coordinate group tours.

Question: How can a neighborhood find out who their neighborhood liaison is?

Answer: Neighborhood liaison and contact information are listed on the city website, on the left hand side on the homepage. The “Neighborhood Organizing Guide” is also online.

There are a lot of great things going on in the City. Mr. Katz commented that the City is not always on the side of the neighborhoods. Mr. McCormick-Huentelman responded that hopefully everyone is engaged and able to participate in issues so that the City has enough information to weigh all of the parts of an issue. Outcomes may not satisfy everyone, but Neighborhood Outreach and the City want to ensure that every community member can participate in the process.

BREAK

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Mr. Aznoff thanked Ms. Grote for putting together the notes of their meeting. He indicated that the information that they just heard from Mr. McCormick-Huentelman overlaps with what the Outreach Committee does.

The Strawberry Festival was a great event, with good attendance. Volunteers handed out lots of Vials of Life. BNOA will be at the Crossroads Farmers Market in August and Ms. Du will be sending out a sign-up sheet for this.

The “Aging your Way” conference was discussed, as well as how the Outreach Committee can give input/help with the Sound Transit Program.

Fall Prevention Day is September 22<sup>nd</sup> and there is a good fall prevention flyer that can be used at outreach events. The committee is updating the resource list. Mr. Aznoff will be writing an article for the paper on Medicare Observation, but is finding that Overlake Hospital has not been very cooperative. Ms. Thompson informed him to speak to Ms. Chris Strand and Ms. Carolyn Kelso who have done lots of work and have considerable knowledge on this topic. The next meeting for Outreach is July 15th in Conference Room 1E-110.

### **Transportation/Housing Committee (reported by Beverly Heyden)**

Discussion included having King County speak on affordability guidelines and the number of seniors on fixed incomes that live in Bellevue and on the Eastside.

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

Ms. Thompson spoke on behalf of herself at the June 30<sup>th</sup> Council study session regarding looping. She noted that there is now a sign posted for persons wanting assisted listening devices Bellevue Network on Aging

to ask Council staff. The city is now dealing with feasibility for the looping, looking at various public spaces, including multiple rooms at City Hall.

Ms. Thompson will present at the budget hearing on behalf of the BNOA at the July 7<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Her presentation was sent out to the Advocacy Committee. Bellevue Art Museum personnel and a member of the Hearing Loss Association will also speak to looping and hearing accessibility.

Ms. Thompson will research other facilities on the Eastside that may be looped, such as Village Theater in Issaquah and town hall lectures. She will also talk with Steve Elliott, Theatre Manager at Meydenbauer, because they might be considering looping.

Eastside Human Services Forum is trying to monitor the items on the Federal Legislative agenda and trying to work with partners to give a heads up when it is time to intervene or send comments on topics. The EHSF does not host a Legislative Forum but have been talking about possibly doing something like it online in September. They would be asking representatives about human services issues.

Aging & Disability Services had planned to organize a Legislative Forum, but the responsible staff people are no longer there, so the question now is if there is still time to organize one for this fall. Further discussion will take place at the Advocacy Committee meeting.

Mr. Katz added that the Sound Transit Citizen Advisory Committee suggested that seat height in trains and train signalization lights in the stations for the hearing impaired are two features that should be at all Bellevue stations. The City Council's reception on these issues was positive.

Ms. Thompson added that she attended the "Aging Your Way" conference last week and was interested in a session on "Momentia," which is "a movement of people and organizations transforming what it means to live in dementia in the community, by celebrating the strengths of person who live with dementia and expanding innovative dementia-friendly social/creative engagement opportunities in every neighborhood." Seattle has many activities that are designed for persons with dementia and their caretakers, such as the Alzheimer's cafes.

Ms. Thompson wondered what Bellevue could do since there is nothing for this population on the eastside. Ms. Gray said it is tough for caretakers to go from the eastside into Seattle for these events. There is also a lack of information in the community in regard to people with cognitive impairment, so education needs to be offered to spread awareness and acceptance. There was a suggestion to follow-up with the Bellevue Art Museum to see if there are any programs for people with cognitive impairment. As the population of Bellevue ages, the chance of people with dementia increases, so there should be activities to keep these people engaged in the community. This topic will also be discussed at the Outreach Committee meeting. Suggestions were made to partner with the Alzheimer's Association and plan trips to Cougar Mountain Zoo in Issaquah.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS**

**Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (Ms. O'Reilly reporting)**

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a joint meeting of the Eastside Easy Rider groups from the north, east and south to get a sense of what other regions are doing. Also, in August there will be a King County Mobility meeting in Bellevue and she will send out the details to the group.

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

There is a summary on the Forum website on the June 12<sup>th</sup> living wage event (EastsideForum.org). About 120 people attended and they had a conversation on the pros and cons of the minimum wage increase.

**Time Bank – no report**

**Aging & Disability Services Advisory Council – no report**

**Washington State Senior Citizens Lobby (Ms. Thompson reporting)**

Ms. Thompson said that there are supposed to be forums throughout the State but there are currently no details on this.

**STAFF REPORT/UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Du thanked Ms. Jones and Mr. Aznoff for working at the Strawberry Festival.

Ms. Thompson will be presenting on hearing accessibility at the City Council meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm and it would be great if BNOA members can attend for support.

The Outreach Committee was emailed a human-interest project suggestion to see if BNOA wants to get involved in a wish fulfillment or recognition program of people turning 100 years old.

Tom Minty will be talking about Universal Design at the next meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Megargel said that since Neighborhood Outreach has a table and canopy at several community events, BNOA could possibly team up and share a table with them at times.

At the request of Mr. Katz and because time permitted, BNOA members shared their backgrounds and stories of how and why they got involved with the network, so that visitor George Twiss of Senior Services can get an idea of who the members were. Mr. Twiss shared a little about himself.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.