

**BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
MINUTES**

August 2nd, 2018
8:30-10:30am

North Bellevue Community Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diana Thompson, Jullie Gray, Howard Katz, George Twiss, Ethan Crawford, Beverly Heyden, Berta Seltzer, Phyllis Smilen, Hannah Kimball, Bob Megargel, Gazel Tan, Peggy Foster, Judy Dowling, Christy Stangland, Lauren Emery, Jeanne Grote

MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Whitehead, Janet Zielasko, Bill Merriman, Desiree Leigh, Arlene Cheng

STAFF PRESENT: NONE

GUESTS: Matt Kovarsky & Alexandra McAboy – Novel Tree Medical
Cathy Iverson – Kirkland Senior Council
Joanne Gainen – Eastside Neighbors Network

RECORDING SECRETARY: Abby Burdick/Bellevue Parks & Community Services

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order by Hannah Kimball and roll call taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 5th, 2018 minutes approved as written

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION:

Matt Kovarsky – Certified Medical Cannabis Consultant, The Novel Tree Medical

The Novel Tree at its core is a celebration of cannabis, their goal is to create a new community understanding of what it means to have a relationship with cannabis. Reintegrating cannabis into the community without the negative stigma is a longer-term goal that will come eventually from day-to-day excellence. To achieve this, they are genuinely customer-centric and strive to learn as much as we possibly can about their guests to truly serve them best. They provide their guests a journey of cannabis discovery- guiding them through a wide selection of products to create a completely personalized experience. The Novel Tree plays a vital role in connecting cannabis users to local ganja-farmers and ganja-processors. They curate all their products very

carefully and with purpose, presenting products that they feel confident in supporting for the end-user's best interests. The Novel Tree takes pride in offering only the cleanest and best quality products available.

The Novel Tree team members are curators of cannabis. Being selected as one of the few recreational marijuana retailers in Washington State has put them in a unique position to explore Washington's recreational cannabis market and present their guests with their favorite marijuana flower, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana concentrates that the state has to offer. The Novel Tree caters to cannabis connoisseurs and newbies alike and respect discretion.

The Novel Tree's mission is to partner with growers across the state who keep the end user in mind. They strive to keep their prices low for the recreational marijuana market while making sure everything they carry is "top shelf" quality. The Novel Tree values the grow process as much as the final THC %. If you don't see your favorite strain on the menu, feel free to make a request and they will do their best to source it for you!

The Novel Tree Medical is an outgrowth of the award-winning Novel Tree, founded in 2014. In the first two years of operation serving more than 275,000 customers, they learned that medical patients want and need a level of service not available in recreational stores. With invaluable suggestions, information and input from their medical patients, The Novel Tree Medical was born.

The Novel Tree Medical is wheelchair accessible with ample free parking including a handicap stall directly in front of the store. You can call their front desk at 425-896-8414 if you need any assistance when you arrive.

The Novel Tree Medical offers free initial consultations both to physician-referred patients and others visiting on their own. It is not necessary to have a medical authorization to visit The Novel Tree Medical; their state-certified medical consultants will explain this and other valuable information about medical cannabis in Washington.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advocacy Committee *(reported by Diana Thompson)*

The next Committee Meeting is August 6th (8:30am) at Merrill Gardens in Kirkland. Shelly Parks is presenting on Co-housing. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Jullie, Diane, and Howard along with some Folks from Kirkland met with Manka Dhingra, State Senator of the 45th District and it went very well. She is very much on board with several things the BNOA is supporting or thinking about, such as raising the income level a person can have and still qualify for property tax exemptions and the idea that 1/2% of payroll tax is should be enacted to be used for eventual long-term care needs.

Hearing Aid Legislation Passed. The health care authority is now drafting regulations that will address some of the things that were "left out".

Outreach, Education & Diversity Committee *(reported Gazel Tan)*

Attended the Library Resource Fair with Catholic Community Services. It was well attended.

The Strawberry festivals demographics seems to have shifted. The committee voted to no longer participate.

August 30th is Senior Day at the Bellevue Farmers Market.

Looking into doing a Public Service Announcement. Sunday AM KIRO Radio. Diana to make the connection.

September 5th is the Senior Health Resource Fair at North Bellevue Community Center sponsored by the NBCC Advisory Board and CISC.

4th Tuesday of every month is the Alzheimer's Café. Just a reminder/encouragement to participate.

The City of Bellevue is updating their ADA policy. There is an upcoming focus group coming up at North Bellevue Community Center.

Transportation & Housing Committee *(reported by Judy Dowling)*

Joanne Gainen from the Eastside Neighbors Network attended the last committee meeting. The committees focus is gathering thoughts, ideas and contacts to put together some kind of Senior Housing forum or "salon" for seniors who are ready to downsize and move.

The next committee meeting is August 15th 9:00-10:00am at North Bellevue Community Center.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS REPORTS:

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative *(reported by Hannah Kimball)*

Hannah will review the meeting minutes and forward any relative information.

The next committee meeting is September 25th. Meeting place and time TBD.

Eastside Human Services Forum *(reported by Diana Thompson & Christy Stangland)*

Diana attended a meeting with Congressman David Reichert. Homelessness, DACA and the Medicare Observation Status Legislation were discussed at length. Medicare cuts were brought up as a concern. The House Budget Committee passed the idea of partially privatizing Medicare. Reichert is really concerned about Medicaid and has opposed the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

The annual meeting for Eastside Human Services is September 5th 2:00-3:30pm at South Bellevue Community Center.

Aging & Disability Services *(Diana Thompson)*

A meeting was held at a new Aegis assisted living facility which has a memory unit in the Newcastle area and it focuses on a Chinese population. They have multigeneration programs where a preschool is interacting with the residents etc.

Senior Lobby *(no report)*

New Business

Howard – Transportation meeting with Sound Transit about seat heights on public transportation. Follow up is needed.

Bellevue High School Students will receive free bus passes. Reserving seats or giving up a seat for an older adult is a concern/an active campaign.

Staff Report *(no report)*

Metro has put together some solution concepts and have met with staff. Bellevue Staff is going to meet and discuss what is actually feasible within the structure that we have. Don will be coming to an upcoming meeting.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.