

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING

MINUTES

November 5, 2020

North Bellevue Community Center via Virtual – Zoom.

8:30am – 10:30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gazel Tan, Gina Johnson, Hannah Kimball, D’Anna Edison, Janet Jelleff, Mary Fredeen, Paul Bradley, Desiree Leigh, Diana Thompson, Abigail Brown, Linda Forshaw, Phyllis Smilen, Catherine Wong.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Berta Seltzer, Beverly Heyden, Bill Merriman, Judy Stenberg.

STAFF PRESENT:

Alex O’Reilly

Mark Heilman, Community Development

Dan Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Carol Ross, Community Development

Betty Lee, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

GUESTS:

Bob Leingang – St. Louise Catholic Church

Gary Studt – St. Louise Catholic Church

PRESENTER(S):

Mark Heilman, COB Community Development -Neighborhood Outreach Manager

Carol Ross, COB Community Development – Community Relations Coordinator.

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Betty Lee

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order by Gazel Tan and the roll call taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Changes made on February minutes and approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

EASTSIDE HUMAN SERVICES FORUM: (Alex O'Reilly)

Eastside Human Services Forum has been undergoing an organizational review process for the past year. Hired 501 Commons as consultants to review that process. Consultants have proposed recommendation which the board is reviewing on Nov 19th.

Some recommendations include – Hiring a full-time executive director, coordinating more with people in the community that have similar organizations to minimize duplication and Alliance of Eastside possibly merge or have an agreement to work together to accomplish same purposes.

PRESENTATION:

Mark Heilman – COB Community Development, Neighborhood Outreach Manager.

Carol Ross – COB Community Development, Community Relations Coordinator.

- Monthly article from BNOA is in Neighborhood News. Community Development department wants to continue to extend relationships, service, and learning with the community. Those in the city feel the distance we are all experiencing. All are learning how to connect and maintain relationships and develop new ones in new ways. Thank you BNOA for the continued relationship.

What does Neighborhood Outreach do?

- **Neighborhood Outreach Liaisons:** Mark Heilman, Carol Ross, Julie Ellenhorn, Theresa Cuthill.

Please refer to [Neighborhood Area Map](#) for areas assigned to liaisons.

Liaisons are there to help with assistance with connecting the appropriate person(s) in the city or neighborhood associations for various issues.

- **Bellevue Essentials:** 10-week evening series, 40 participants. Each week you learn about 1-2 departments in the city. Graduates are well-equipped to get more involved in the city and non-profit arenas on the Eastside, and become members of the Bellevue Essentials Extended Alumni organization, a networking and civic engagement group.
- **Welcome to City Hall:** Held in English/Mandarin last May. Short taste of Bellevue Essentials; coming to city hall, meet council members, greeting from the mayor, discussion with police and fire chief, learning about recycling, utilities and parks.
- **Neighborhood Enhancement Program:** Every year 2 of 14 neighborhoods receive funds that residents can propose different capitol projects within the city funds; playground equipment, lighting, cross walks, landscape enhancement, etc.
- **Neighborhood Match Program:** Small project where the city pays half and neighborhood pays half and could be something comparable to making visible street corners, landscaping, signs, etc. for small neighborhoods.

- Bellevue Neighborhoods Conference: Next generation cars, green energy, waste reduction, etc. Neighborhood leadership gatherings. February conference focused on city's budget. Other focuses have been on trees and impacts in response of city to Covid19, very topic specific.
- Cultural Conversations: Started 10 years ago, typically meet monthly. Primarily women-centered and brings diverse community in Bellevue and eastside to have an opportunity to learn about each other through cultural focused story telling. Great opportunity to share across generations with wide age range, building relationships. Next program is Dec. 8th, speaker from humanities WA talking about 5 pioneering women of Pacific NW.
- Day of Sharing and Caring: 13th year partnership with Jubilee Reach, typically takes place in August. Program that deals with all the concerns of aging in place. Goal of assisting 15-40 homeowners per year. Since 2008, 163 homes have been improved. Program is based on relationships and not transactional. Homeowners of Bellevue with single family homes with physical or financial challenges can participate. Over 600 volunteers with 3000 volunteer hours can be involved. Faith, non-profit, and businesses also assist for projects. Some improvements include - landscape projects, street cleanup, tree trimming, making homes safer for crime prevention, junk hauling, eliminate tripping hazards from vegetation. Great heartwarming program that gives people pride of ownership of their property.
- Lake Hills Picnic: Block parties, promotion, poster, and flyers to outreach with neighbors.
- Neighborhood Walks: Summer chats in June/July. Opportunity for people to talk about what is unique about your neighborhood and what are some emerging issues you're seeing. Directors from each department, city manager and city council members frequently attend.
- Neighborhood News: Partnered with BNOA. Releases every month, electronically available online. Hard copies have also been placed in 4-5 different parks. Also distributed through Meals on Wheels and Farmer's Market. Full of useful resources.

Q: Is Neighborhood News available in shopping malls or grocery stores?

A: The Crossroads Mall management office has set up an information desk and have them available for pickup.

Q: Does Jubilee Reach center and Hopelink have the Neighborhood News available?

A: No but might be good to put an A-board out while people wait in line for food pick-up.

Q: Why have I signed up for Neighborhood News online but not receiving alert when it's available?

A: Mark will look into this issue.

Q: Possibly add COB to Microsoft donation match program? It isn't listed currently on Jubilee Reach.

A: Carol will look into this issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE: (*Diana*)

Federal Issues on legislative agenda:

- Wanted re-authorization of the Older American Act, and it was re-authorized, and funding was increased by 35%.

- Wanted dental, vision and hearing to be covered under Medicare; house passed the bill and it would've been covered but that bill died in the senate.
- Wanted to meet with the federal senators and was schedule to meet with Maria Cantwell's assistant in March 2020 but was cancelled due to Covid19.

State Issues:

- Advocated to preserve the WA long term infrastructure and increase funding for case management. Nursing homes received extra funds and case management program received about 85% of the raise they asked for.
- In August, a letter was written to legislators asking not to cut programs for seniors.
- 2020 Agenda – asked for funding for dementia programs. Budget proviso bill introduced by a dementia organization and passed the legislature. Unfortunately, governor vetoed the bill because all new programs were being vetoed due to Covid19.
- Supported bills that would reduce the cost of prescribed medicine. Some bills did pass and monthly copay on diabetes medication is now limited to being \$100/month.
- Some other bills passed was vetoed due to Covid19 and the decreasing revenue.
- Asked for legislative to support affordable housing and fully funds housing trust fund. Some funding for housing was added.
- The BNOA advocacy committee has been meeting every month since May. Recently discussed senior legislative issues and have drawn up a proposed legislative agenda which will be discussed in new business.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE: *(Janet)*

- Trying to get Neighborhood News out to everyone and looking to find ways to expand distribution. If anyone has ideas on how to expand, please advise. Possibly schools and Hopelink. Members continue to get Neighborhood News out to older adult housing including keeping a presence at both Bellevue's farmers markets.

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION: *(Phyllis)*

- Oct 14th attended meeting “Building the Future on the Eastside” and was interesting because most of the mayors in the area attended. Claudia Balducci was moderator and she stated Bellevue went from expensive living to exclusive, and we have to try to bring people of all levels into Bellevue and see that they can afford housing. One important point is that if the policemen, firemen, teachers, retail store workers who work in Bellevue move away because they can't afford to live in Bellevue, we would be at a loss. Must try to develop housing for everybody. Claudia pointed out how important it is to know your zoning and that is something housing and transportation committee can emphasize by studying it in the next 6 months or so. Offer incentives to builders in the way of perhaps not having to pay property taxes for few years if they build affordable housing.
- Franz Lowenherz Bellevue principle transportation planner. Crossroads Connects Service Project – wheelchair accessible, started just recently, runs from 3pm to 9pm. Free service accessible through an application, online browser, or phone call. With winter, would this be something aging adults will use? Assuming area or service will widen and possibly adjusted time frame for use.

EASTSIDE EASY RIDER COLLABORATIVE: *(Hannah)*

- The group has been meeting virtually. Metro bus service ridership is down dramatically due to close proximity of others, threat of Covid19, and inability for bus drivers to control passengers.
- Meeting virtually on Nov. 24th 1:00-2:30, will send out agenda for those interested.
- There isn't much going on in transportation due to lack of use during quarantine.
- Hannah will connect with Franz Lowenherz and Alison Miskle to report back about Crossroads Connect.

AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES AND WA SENIOR LOBBY: *(Diana)*

- Dementia Action Collaborative is the organization that has been introducing legislation for the people with dementia and their caregivers. They are not introducing legislation this year because of the pandemic and Bob Leroy who was the leader of getting legislation developed is no longer in that position.

NEW BUSINESS: *(Dan)*

- Proposed State Agenda for discussion and a vote. – Diana
The following is the agenda items that were brought to the BNOA for approval:

Item One Maintain or increase funding for Washington's Long-Term Care Infrastructure, which provides needed services, supports, resources, and housing to older adults, who live in their own homes, community settings and nursing homes. Provide funding needed due to Covid-19. (e.g. Added infection control, Personal Protective Equipment)

Item Two: Support legislation that will reduce the price of prescribed Medications.

Item Three: Invest in digital equity solutions (e.g., Broadband expansion, hardware, software updates, technical training) to increase older adult access to telehealth, community resources, and connections with families and friends.

Item Four Support legislation that will increase affordable housing for older adults, enable seniors to age in place, and fully fund the Housing Trust Fund.

A few comments on the issues

1. Item One is extremely important. Washington's State revenue is much lower than prior to the Pandemic. The next revenue forecast is in November and there will be another one during the legislative session. If there will be a budget deficit, funding will need to be cut, or taxes raised.. However, there are many programs and obligations that the Legislature must legally fund and cannot cut. Unfortunately, senior programs and to some extent Medicaid is one area where funding can be legally reduced.

The Department of Social and Health Services in September stated that if funding for the Aging and Long-term Support administration (AL TSA) needs to be cut by 15%, they would recommend, among other things, changing client eligibility. And that would mean 12,000 people now served in their own homes, community settings, and nursing homes by AL TSA

would lose services. The Long-Term care Coalition, composed of about 14 organizations, opposes all cuts in senior programs.

2. In 2020 BNOA/KSC supported this issue. Some legislation passed re co-pays for insulin. I have heard that Senator Keiser will be introducing a bill relating to reducing the cost of prescribed medication.
3. From speaking with Cathy Maccaul of AARP I am aware that the Commerce Department is expected to introduce a bill on this subject, but she does not know at this time exactly what the legislation will say. A bill addressing these issues will among other things help combat social isolation of seniors, which has been a real problem during the pandemic.
4. Affordable housing for seniors is important.

The BNOA discussed the issues presented for a State Agenda and even discussed if memory related funding should be included. The BNOA approved the proposed state agenda.

- Jeanne Grote is no longer participating in BNOA. She has been participating since 2010.
- Otter account now available through COB Zoom meeting platform. All BNOA committees will be set up in this format.
- Please be ready with viewing camera for next meeting, chat is disabled by COB and no visuals can be recorded by the COB Zoom.
- Nomination for chair and vice chair for 2021. Call for nomination will go out soon. Only voting members can vote on nominees.
- Dec. 3rd next meeting. If anyone has suggestions one speaker or subject, please reach out to Dan.
- Trying to come up with activity for holiday party, perhaps ugly sweater contest?
- Retreat on Jan 7th, 8:30-noon.
- Speaker/Subject suggestions:

Diana - State of WA Death with Dignity Act. Advocacy committee stated that relatives and friends are not very aware of this act and may be a good thing to learn. Recommending having a speaker on this subject. Balancing this subject with a speaker from a hospice suggested.

Hannah suggested the possibility to discuss advocating Covid19 vaccine for aging adults? D'Anna stated that State of WA has already developed a hierarchy.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34am.