

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING

MINUTES

July 1st, 2021

North Bellevue Community Center via Virtual – Zoom.

8:30am – 10:30am

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gazel Tan, Hannah Kimball, Janet Jelleff, Beverly Heyden, Diana Thompson, Berta Seltzer, Linda Forshaw, Phyllis Smilen, Mary Fredeen, Gina Johnson, Abigail Brown.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill Merriman, Paul Bradley, Desiree Leigh, Catherine Wong,

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Christy Stangland, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

GUESTS:

PRESENTER(S):

None.

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Betty Lee, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 2021 minutes approved.

GROUP DISCUSSION: “State of Our Neighborhoods” – affordable living discussion and how can each committee contribute.

- ❖ Feedback comments from BNOA after reading the documents were: Comprehensive, disappointing, population growth 2009-2020 was not as much as imagined, unrealistic, a lot of info, data overload, highlighting gaps, increasing call for greater responsiveness for affordable housing, glad to see they're addressing problem that's been around for a long time, interesting that average neighborhood income is 175K/yr.
- ❖ BNOA discussed various concerns and was asked to think about: What really stands out and what do each of the 3 committees want to look at, and how does it change what we think we can be doing as BNOA? How do we see seniors being impacted by this? We cannot solve the problem, so what can we do? How can we help our seniors have what they need to stay in the neighborhood comfortably?
- ❖ It was brought up that seminars and public meetings discussing Bellevue growth plans happened 20 years ago, so how do we improve how it impacts seniors from here on? Perhaps we are discussing what might influence the future of Bellevue for the next 20 years. Going to council will influence what's to come, not immediate.
- ❖ Variety of Suggestions from BNOA members:
 - Offer incentives to builders to create affordable housing. What kind of incentives?
 - Engage businesses who has the most gain.
 - They're not going to stop growing, so how can we turn that into our advantage.
 - the City should just STOP GROWING.
 - Outreach committee will continue to distribute information to keep people informed.
 - Attend city council meetings to voice our opinion. Ask for suggestions on how older adults can remain in Bellevue.
 - Christy Stangland from COB Human Services suggests having a reoccurring presence at council asking to meet with council members as citizens of the city. Council members meet with so many people, it's important to have a regular presence and build relationships so that the senior voice is constantly brought up to the conversation.
 - It was suggested to recommend incorporating universal design to council.
 - Hannah and Linda volunteered to attend council meetings on Zoom; members suggested writing letters to council members.
- ❖ Gazel asked each committee to continue to think through this issue and think about breaking it up to smaller pieces to gather more information. BNOA will continue this discussion after members attend council meetings and committees have time to discuss further.

HUMAN SERVICES: (*Christy Stangland*)

1590 funding – recommendation will go to council on 7/19.

Terry Ekstrom retired after 33 years with the city.

Rent moratorium extended. Neighborhood Outreach and Mediation Department is reaching out to tenants to make sure they know their rights.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Members were asked to read the following committee report minutes before the meeting for discussion:

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE:

1. Judy Stenberg retired from BNOA and the BNOA Advocacy Committee.
 2. Diana discussed meeting with Marvin regarding OTC hearing assist devices regulation based on level of hearing loss. Anticipate length of time before decision.
 3. Diana discussed modifications to federal legislative agenda items, discussed and approved at the June BNOA meeting.
 4. Diana plans meetings with federal legislators (Del Bene and others) the end of July. Seeking appointments on BNOA board. Federal agenda Item 5 and item 4 reworded slightly by BNOA and revisions were accepted by advocacy committee. Attaching revised federal agenda, together with some comments on changes.
 5. Diana: Regarding KOMO news and the possibility of having a KC prosecutor submit a discussion of elder abuse, Diana received no response from KC prosecutor. Caryn proposes 30-second BNOA/KSC recruitment and fall prevention recording for submission to KOMO. Record with Shannon O'Donnell or Tom Hutylar per Caryn.
 6. Kathy: upcoming monthly meeting to discuss senior housing issues.
 7. Kathy: City of Kirkland plans bus hub on I-405 and 85th, public meetings held on growth management. Concerns presented about no parking provisions. Diana mentioned bus stops along Bellevue appear out of service.
 8. Diana: Accessory Dwelling Unit issues discussed with city plan to increase affordable middle housing. Northwest and Northeast Bellevue are part of current plan presented by city staff.
 9. Kathy: Kirkland City Council proposes Public Development Authority to meet housing needs for all who work within the city.
 10. Abigail: Presented case for middle housing and current city growth demands. Kathy encourages discussion with city leaders.
 11. Diana: Property tax impacts to seniors discussed. Diana will present BNOA proclamation on elder abuse to upcoming Bellevue City Council meeting.
- ❖ Federal agenda: Diana proposed the BNOA edits to Kirkland Senior Council, but they have already approved the agenda and will have to get the edits approved at their next meeting.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Opening discussion centered around potential support for creating a dementia-friendly community:

1. For businesses, easily understood restroom signage would be beneficial, areas for lowered sensory stimulation.
2. Dementia caregiver training and support needs to be community-based and community-knowledgeable
3. What can we do? Tutta Bella currently not hosting Alzheimer's Cafe. What about Panera? NBCC?
4. What about Dementia Friends?

5. BNOA resources -- Bill Merriman, Gina Johnson, and Aging Wisdom's Jullie Gray -- can they help?
 6. Abigail Brown is active in eastside dementia support activities, what is her input?
 7. Contact Karen Koenig of Old Friends Club
- ❖ Committee is trying to be more active with dementia issues, will attend webinars to gather more information.
 - ❖ Continuing Farmer's Market tables.

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION MINUTES:

1. K. Iverson advised that the City of Kirkland is applying for a Public Development Authority permit/project for the Community Roots Housing Authority. Also, Common View will develop a co-housing project for eastside residents, will be limited to 5 member families. They're currently looking for land, will be set up as an LLC, working with architect and attorney. Contact is Shirley Blase, for more information go to info@commonvu.org
 2. Discussion item follow-up from last H&T meeting: resident of Silver Glen who briefly attended prior meeting, should we learn more, should we invite her to future meeting to learn more? Idea that we contact local media to highlight senior affordable housing issues, Gene Balk the FYI guy probably not quite the right guy.... Chris Randels? Westneat? QUESTION: how do we carve out a piece of affordable housing specifically aimed at senior citizens? Is it possible? Is it an exercise in futility? Is the elephant too big to eat, even one bite at a time?
- ❖ Hannah will get ARCH information updated.
 - ❖ ARCH website seems outdated, we can get more current info from Raquel Rodriguez.
 - ❖ Kirkland Senior Council has joined our Housing and Transportation Committee. They are very interested in discussing loss of middle housing.
 - ❖ Where are the 2418 affordable housing units? Raquel Rodriguez from ARCH, or Christy and Alex from Human Services may be good resources to start, as well as Mike Huentelman, Kate Nesse, Elizabeth de Regt and Mark Heilman.
 - ❖ Kathy from KSC talked about workforce housing "common view" which offers options for low-income seniors.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS:

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (Hannah)

- ❖ Meeting notes have been emailed to members, nothing to report today.

Aging and Disability Services and WA Senior Lobby (Diana)

- ❖ Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY MEETING REPORTS:

- ❖ Hannah attended Bellevue Essential's alumni meeting. Stephanie Martinez, City of Bellevue Homelessness Outreach Coordinator came to the meeting and spoke for an hour answering all the questions regarding dimensions of homelessness problems and what the city's process is for dealing with it.
 - They have 3-4 ways they get notified regarding a homelessness situation. They handle it case by case, one on one basis. They have resources available and community partners that help.
 - Hannah would like to know what the city's policy is regarding homelessness.
- ❖ Hannah and Phyllis attended the Sophia Way meeting on June 8th regarding the 95-unit permanent supportive housing for single women coming to Eastgate. Sophia Way and Congregations for the Homeless will be attempting to refer only eastside homeless folks to this facility. This new housing will house older adults for life with live-in support staff in the building. They need case management and want support from city council.
- ❖ Hannah attended Eastside Advocacy for Transportation Solution. (EATS) Hopelink is working on Design Challenge 2021 and working to receive grant funds to demonstrate an effective and permanent solution to a transportation problem. If anyone would like to be part of the design, you'll need to commit to about 25 hours of time and 1 year of meetings.
- ❖ Gazel attended Bellevue Chamber's real estate symposium. Microsoft supports the community by giving loans to real estate builders for building workforce housing. They spoke in depth about affordable housing and senior housing, but bottom line is all about the money. Gazel sees importance in looking at what the Chamber is doing because that's where all the businesses go to.
- ❖ Thank you, Diana, for doing a great job of accepting the Elder Abuse Proclamation from City Council.
- ❖ Welcome Michelle Lee for joining North Bellevue Community Center as the program coordinator.

NEW BUSINESS: (Dan)

- ❖ Great job Dan on KOMO4 News cooling center interview.
- ❖ Bellevue will be the only public space in King County to hold a 4th of July event. Fireworks and viewing only, no vendors or entertainment.
- ❖ Ryan Walker from Parks and Community Service's open space plan has asked to come to BNOA to talk about the Wilburton Trail in August. He will be back in September to talk about the Bellevue Open Space System Plan and how to get it implemented through using commissions and committees.
- ❖ Blayne Amson will move his presentation to October.
- ❖ An Alzheimer's association would like to do a virtual walkthrough in an apartment that has been set up for those living with dementia.
- ❖ Please let Dan know any other types of presentations you are interested in.

- ❖ When distancing restrictions are lifted, Dan can host BNOA meetings in person. Please think about pros and cons about meeting in person, zoom, or hybrid so we can discuss it in next month's meeting.
- ❖ In September we will start the recruiting process. Dan will ask about 4 people to be involved in the process. Mostly will be liaison positions but will also need to look at who's terms will end and what will be opening. Please think about this, especially if there's something different we want to do in the recruiting process.
- ❖ Dan will send BNOA introduction/information packet for recruiting purposes for anyone who wants to pass on to others.
- ❖ Diana is suggesting it would be a good time to send a recording to KOMO for promo airtime regarding BNOA and KSC before recruiting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am