

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING

MINUTES

September 2nd, 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, Desiree Leigh, Paul Bradley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill Merriman, Catherine Wong.

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Christy Stangland, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

GUESTS:

Bob Leingang

Janis Hyne

PRESENTER(S):

*Luke Lamon, Government & Community Relations
Corridor Manager, Sound Transit.*

*Russ Arnold, Chief Passenger Experience and Innovation
Officer, Sound Transit.*

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:

Changes made, and minutes approved as amended.

PRESENTATION:

Sound Transit Eastlink Project Plan Update – Findings and recommendations from the passenger restroom project.

- ❖ Summary of motion M2019-31:
 - Review and propose an update to Motion M98-67 – current board policy adopted in 1998.
 - Present low and no-cost opportunities for customer access to restroom at future light rail stations.
 - Evaluate and recommend opportunities requiring retails to provide access.
 - Onsite restrooms.
 - Provide suggestions to board for actions to expand restroom access.
 - Consider budget and propose implementation plan in findings.
- ❖ Current M98 resolution restroom locations:
 - Northgate Transit Center.
 - Bellevue Transit Center.
 - King Station
 - Union Station
 - Sounders Station
 - Tacoma Dome Sounders Station
 - Onboard Sounder trains
- ❖ Current restroom policy: Additional restrooms may be provided when funding, staffing, and maintenance agreements can be made that do not affect Sound Transit goals to meet budgets and schedules in its coordination with local jurisdictions.
 - Currently grown to 9 passenger restrooms, decisions made on project-by-project basis in addition to the M98-67 resolution.
 - Auburn Sounder Station
 - Sumner
 - Federal Way Transit Center
 - SeaTac
 - Tukwila Link Station
- ❖ 2024 Expansion: There will be 16 passenger restrooms.
 - Lynnwood Link – 4 additions
 - Federal Way Link- 2 additions
- ❖ Started process by findings what other peer agencies around the county are doing. LA Metro, Long Beach, Tri Met, Valley Metro, Charlotte, Miami, Toronto, NY Metro.
- ❖ Common theme with these agencies: passenger only restrooms, only at major hubs within fare paid zones, locked, need to request to access.
- ❖ Working group’s recommendation is to treat the restrooms as transit amenities and put a criteria in place to indicate when to activate, construct and operate a restroom.
 - Minimum of 10,000 boardings/day
 - Multiple modal location with 5 routes or more.
 - Approximately 20 min ride time between access to restrooms.
- ❖ Operational Cost:

- Security, staff, cleaning staff and regime, on-call maintenance.
- Average operation cost per restroom is \$322,000/year.
- ❖ Currently 9 existing passenger restrooms cost 2.9 mil/year. Plan 14 will cost 4.5 mil/year.
- ❖ Recommending adding 2 restrooms in Issaquah and Seattle Center which will meet the threshold of all 3 criteria measures currently in place which will cost 5.1 mil/year to operate.
- ❖ Staff recommends providing restrooms strategically throughout the system in the fare paid zone to implement the standard restroom design and operation considerations to enhance safety, maintainability, and passenger access. Upgrades to make the inside design more durable and easier to maintain, use a mix of security and customer service presence to control and monitor passenger restrooms.

Q & A:

Q: With the 20 minutes ride time between restrooms, how do passengers know in advance that some stations won't have a restroom?

A: There will be a plan on how to communicate this and have enhance capability with new passenger information system. Passengers will be notified whether next station has restroom facilities or not.

Q: How many restrooms at each location?

A: Two non-gender single occupancy ADA accessible restrooms.

Q: 10,000 boardings/day being one of the criteria for deciding to site a restroom or not, is that projected or actual?

A: It is a projected ridership at a station.

Q: If the station doesn't meet the 10,000 boarding/day, do you close the restroom to save the cost of maintaining it?

A: What triggers a removal of amenities has not been discussed. Currently have focused more on addition of amenities and opportunity. It is difficult to remove things that people become accustomed to.

Q: Why do some parts of the map have clusters of restrooms while some don't?

A: Depends on currently policy in place on when to consider restrooms. Aimed to be more consistent and figure out better way to articulate the board and the agency's desire to support passengers.

Q: Are there possibilities of adding restrooms in the future depending on the actual number of boardings a day?

A: Once policy is adopted, it won't be retrofitted. But realistically if there's a much different nexus in ridership pattern and see a need, the cost and level of effort to add amenities will be discussed. For now, it is forward facing through 2040's.

Q: Security concern – can anyone access the restrooms at any time?

A: This issue has been discussed in length. These are for passengers in the fare paid zones. Also looking to incorporate ability to scan tickets/Orca cards to gain access to restrooms for paying customers. Until then, access needs to be granted by customer service agents or security personnel. (Fare paid zones are areas where you are expected to have purchased a ticket and can be approached by a fare ambassador to request proof of paid fare)

Q: How about those people who try to get around this system and make a home in the restrooms?

A: The restrooms will be locked and secured at all times restroom checks will happen routinely throughout the day by customer service agents and security personnel.

Q: Where exactly are the restrooms going to be in Bellevue?

A: Historically, motion M98 calls for restrooms at the Bellevue Transit Center which did until recently. Currently analyzing where it can be replaced. There are conversations regarding where that would be; within the paid zone? inside the station? or call back to M98 policy and return it to the transit center?

Q: How do you locate those who will give access to the restrooms in a large station?

A: Customer service agents in addition to security officers should be close by to give access.

Q: Security concern in staircase area around elevators and escalators.

A: Have made a round turn on making the system more reliable. Stated goal is 95% reliability.

Q: Why did the Bellevue Transit Center's restroom shut down?

A: Bellevue Transit Center's rider service's building was on a long-term lease. Amazon has since acquired the building and have demolished it as part of their construction. This restroom location will be reinstated in the near future.

Q: Will the presentation be available to BNOA members and post on the BNOA website?

A: Yes, it will be sent to Dan for distribution.

Q: What is the process for requesting restroom installation considerations?

A: Happy to listen to suggestions but really leaning on the 3 criteria for need and access.

- ❖ If there's an interest from the group for a future agenda, Sound Transit would be happy to return and take a deep dive regarding light rail in Bellevue.
- ❖ Luke will share today's questions and concerns with the board. Sound Transit Board of Directors is comprised of 18 locally elected officials from King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. Mayor David Baker of Kenmore has been the champion of this policy and making sure he is representing the senior community.
- ❖

HUMAN SERVICES: *(Christy Stangland)*

- New position posted for a grant's coordinator – a two-year position. Please encourage eligible applicants to apply.
- No commission meeting for August, Sept will meet Wednesday the 8th.
- BNOA members are curious if there are any updates from ARCH and if Lindsay Masters provide presentations and updates. Christy Stangland says many times when things are in the planning stage it's not public information.
- ARPA – American Rescue Plan, one-time Federal funding that City of Bellevue is receiving. Some of the funding went to council and will be approved for rental assistance.
- Will affordable housing be available for people outside of Bellevue since ARCH is involved? Yes, but City of Bellevue residents will have priority.
- BNOA would like to get input from ARCH on building of affordable senior housing and website updates on senior section, many items are out of date. Gazel will email link to Christy on sections that need to be updated.
- Concerns of purchased Silver Cloud Inn housing – only 15% of the referrals have to come from the Eastside. Assuming Seattle will bus people in, what can we do to make a difference as it seems logical to have Eastside people to be referred to it.
 - All homeless units are focused on families or individuals from that area. There's always an opportunity to advocate but since this is run by King County and a much larger systemic change that's been in place for a long time.
 - Christy will draft an email to Lindsay and Raquel and possibly invite Liesel to touch base and make sure staff is clear on what BNOA's desire for focus is, the ARCH component and website updates.
- ❖ BNOA members voiced their concerns regarding Silver Cloud housing and low percentage of occupancy of Eastside residents and discussed what can be done. It was agreed that members need to attend meetings and gather more information to decide on BNOA's position and make a statement.

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

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Advocacy Meeting Minutes
BNOA/KSC
August 30, 2021

Scheduled meetings—Save the date

- Committee meeting with Marvin Eng from Smith's office on September 8th at 3:00 AND Kevin Chang from Cantwell's office on September 9th at 2:00. Discussion about possible plan for the 8th and 9th ensued.

Del Bene meeting.

Comments included: “it was difficult having conversation flow as it typically does”. “We didn’t have the knowledgeable Aide present for Del Bene and are unsure if the group’s requests will be conveyed. There is another Aide to Del Bene who is better versed in policy and we should have had that individual”, “attendees were late making the group seem unprofessional and unorganized”, “ Del Bene really needed to be the individual hearing the groups concerns”, “the content we presented was good”

Sept 8th 3pm meeting with Senator Smith’s Aide Marvin Eng. After a discussion it appears who will be in attendance is Diana, Kathy, Karen, Abigail if her appt. ends soon enough, Desiree is considering.

Sept 9th 2p meeting with Senator Cantwell’s Aide Kevin Chang. After a discussion it appears those in attendance will be Kathy, Diana, Karen, Desiree, Barbara, Dr. Johnsen hopeful,.

- Karen will be updating her dental story with costs and procedures and will resubmit it to Diana.
- At the senator aide meetings, Diana will speak on Social Security solvency, Kathy will speak on prescribed medicine costs, and the group as a whole will field questions.

The committee discussed mental health bills hr432 & SB828. The discussion was to decide if making the Mental Health coverage part of discussion with the Aides. The team agreed to review the issue with KSC and BNOA as a whole and decide if it will be part of the 2022 agenda.

Next meeting is October 4th, 2021

- Diana spent hours researching federal issues on behalf of BNOA. Senate and House passed the \$3.5 trillion budge plan. Diana explained in detail the importance of having vision and dental covered with Medicare. If anyone is interested in meeting with Senator Smith’s office on Sept 8th or with Senator Cantwell’s office on Sept 9th, please reach out to Diana. Going to meetings with the legislators will give you better idea of what we are doing.

Senior Citizen’s Lobby – Virtual meeting in October, Diana will send out announcements.

- Gazel commented that Diana brings up a good point that there’s a huge time commitment to continue to stay up to date on legislation and seniors. Please give it some thought on how we will take this commitment forward and let Gazel know if anyone wants to start a conversation on what a committee should look like.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Subject: Outreach Minutes, August 19, 2021

- BNOA offered a chance to participate in weekend Bellevue Farmers Market in October, on a Saturday, enthusiastic "YES! "
- Updating the BNOA Resource List, deadline is September, folks need to finish up the updates and return them to Janet.
- Questions about the proposed "senior wall": will it be at City Hall? story wall? will Mark Heilman make it virtual? will it be at mini-City Hall too? Engaging Bellevue?
- Congratulations To Janet and Abigail! Both were accepted into the 2021-22 Bellevue Essentials program. What a fabulous chance to network and help us find new, innovative ways to advocate for older adults.
- Further discussion about adding caregiver resource and emphasis to our outreach activities. Abigail noted that resource info is difficult to find, Diana said DSHS website has abundant material. Group agreed to provide Neighborhood News with a caregiver resource/issue article.
- Catherine Wong is familiar with the DSHS Caregiver Program and associated resources; CISC, Sound Generations, and Jewish Family Services also support caregivers. AARP is supporting a bill that would allow a tax deduction for caregiver costs. Many services are income-qualified ACTION ITEM: gather caregiver information for NN article.

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION MINUTES:

Housing and Transportation August 2021 minutes

- Two discussion topics comprised an abbreviated agenda: (1) identify target audience/users of possible Bellevue community van service, (2) discuss housing/transport-related meetings members have attended in the past month.
- If Bellevue gets the opportunity to have a community van or similar type of service, who is our target/intended ridership? Some eastside cities have tried a community van approach but did not succeed. It would be helpful to know, before we try to i.d. our potential ridership, why the other attempts didn't draw enough customers -- route? timing? frequency? safety? portal-to-portal? were target audiences included in planning and implementation? is it an idea before its time? Kathy Iverson, KSC, reported that the Kirkland community van was sidelined due to lack of volunteer drivers; Kirkland is getting van service from Northshore Senior Service. Dan suggested that perhaps IAWW would have potential ridership, he is meeting later today with IAWW manager Lalita and will discuss any transportation plans/programs they may have. We should talk with Alex O'Reilly or Christy Stangland for advice on next steps.
- The remaining conversation centered on the question "how are seniors on fixed incomes supposed to live decently in today's economy?"
- Members agreed that the City of Bellevue simply doesn't seem to care about seniors, even though they are the foundational population of Bellevue. The City's guiding principle seems to be "growth at any cost". Although seniors comprise over 14% of the city's population, seniors don't seem to be getting a commensurate amount of services, attention, or thought.

- ❖ Phyllis – Team will meet to submit a grant request for elderly immigrant refugees and other vulnerable population regarding transportation issues. Phyllis is compiling questions to be asked at the meeting and looking forward to meeting and advocating for seniors.
- ❖ IAWW is on-board with helping out regarding transportation. It was suggested we form a working partnership to back up Phyllis’s input to the grant committee. Gazel suggested that at the next housing & transportation meeting, the committee work on how to support Phyllis in this effort.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORT:

- ❖ Eastside Easy Rider Coalition (EERC): Thursdays Bellevue Bulletin - new housing projects in Bellevue.

WA SENIOR LOBBY, AGING AND DISABILITY:

Senior Lobby did not meet in August.

There’s a seminar on October 21st.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS:

NEW BUSINESS: (Dan)

- ❖ We need to take some time to discuss how we can represent our city, lets discuss next month.
- ❖ September is recruitment month, thank you for the feedback. A public service announcement will be out regarding recruitment. Interviews in October.
- ❖ Berta and Beverly will not continue with another term, thank you for your many years of service. There’s now 3 voting positions and 5 liaison positions open unless Bill returns.
- ❖ We are not doing the KOMO this year.
- ❖ Deadline for receiving application is Oct 1st (This has since been extended to Oct 17th)
- ❖ Applications and flyers available to download on BNOA website.
- ❖ Dan will post announcement on NextDoor as part of PSA.
- ❖ People are asking if we will continue to meet on Zoom – we need to talk about possibly continuing some level on Zoom, people are more willing to join if it was remote. Let’s discuss this next month before interviews.
- ❖ Dan had a good talk with the person who’s in charge of the Park Board and let him know at some point BNOA would like to talk to them and they are happy to make this happen.
- ❖ Fall Speaker Series on memory loss through King County grant. Please sign up if you’re interested, free of charge in person or via Zoom.
- ❖ Dementia Action Collaborative meeting Sept 14th and 15th.
- ❖ Next meeting: October 7th, 2021. *Ryan Walker, City of Bellevue Senior Planner* – City of Bellevue Parks Open Parks Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38am