

**BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING**  
**MINUTES**

May 5, 2022, North Bellevue Community Center via Virtual – Zoom.

8:30am – 10:30am

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anne Rittenhouse, Barbara Carey, Desiree Leigh, Diana Thompson, Gazel Tan, Hannah Kimball, Janet Jelleff, Kira Hackett, Mary Fredeen, Paul Bradley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Abigail Brown, Beverly Heyden, Catherine Wong, Gina Johnson, Julie Hart, Phyllis Smilen

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dan Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services  
Christy Stangland, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

**GUESTS:** Sariga Santhosh, King County Aging & Disability Services  
Terri Cleveland

**PRESENTER(S):** Thara Johnson, Comprehensive Planning Manager, City of Bellevue Community Development

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Betty Lee, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order by Janet Jelleff and the roll call taken.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** April minutes approved.

**PRESENTATION:** *Thara Johnson, Planning Manager, City of Bellevue Community Development*

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE**

On February 28, Council initiated the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and directed boards and commissions to contribute to the update.

Please visit the Community Development website to view the comprehensive plan:

[Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan \(arcgis.com\)](http://Bellevue's%20Comprehensive%20Plan%20(arcgis.com))

Today's Presentation agenda:

1. Background
2. Current Plan
3. Reasons for the Update
4. Emphasis areas and scope
5. Update Process
6. Community Engagement Strategy
7. Next Steps

❖ What is Comprehensive Plan?

- GMA requirement
- Vision for how the community grows
- 20-year plan (2024-2044)
- Includes Vision and Elements or chapters
- Sets policy that guides city actions and decisions
- Guides capital investments

❖ How it is used

- Comprehensive Plan Policies has vision of how the city will grow in the next 20 years which includes goals and policies which then inform and set the stage for codes, regulations, various plans, and how it impacts the community, then eventually informs what gets built.

❖ What is our current plan?

- Vision
- Narrative
- Goals + supporting policies
- Map of land uses
- Subarea/Neighborhood area plans

❖ Why update now?

- Remain current and relevant
- Address regional requirements
  - GMA requirements
  - Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Vision 2050 Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs)
  - King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) and growth targets
- Reflect Council's updated vision
  - Housing options and affordability
  - Maintain economic innovation
  - Protecting the environment

- ❖ Growth Targets: Background
  - Growth targets are:
  - A policy statement of the housing and jobs to plan for in 2024 comprehensive plans
  - For at least a 20-year period (2024-2044)
  - Created collaboratively with all cities and King County
  - Adopted as part of the CPPs
  
- ❖ Growth Targets: Adopted
  - Metropolitan job center and regional collaboration
  - Downtown Bellevue is an Urban Growth Center
  - Achieving a more equitable jobs/housing balance 2:1 from 2.4:1
  - Planning to address growth: Periodic update, Wilburton, and Bel-Red lookback
  
- ❖ Focus of the Update
  - Plan for growth
  - Expand housing options
  - Create vibrant places
  - Equitable approach
  - Environmental sustainability & resilience
  - Set the stage for future planning
  
- ❖ Streams of Engagement
  - Public engagement events, surveys, discussions
  - Strategy team engagement
  - Public Comments at Board/commission/council meetings
  - Board/commission comments
  
- ❖ Timeline Spring 2022-Winter 2024
  - Build awareness and relationships
  - Understand strengths & challenges
  - Explore key topics
    - Housing
    - Transportation
    - Neighborhood centers
  - Deliberate growth options
  - Review Comprehensive Plan chapters and get feedback on policies
  - Public hearing with Planning Commission
  - Public hearing with City Council for final adoption

#### ❖ Community Engagement Strategy 2022-2023

- Affirm the vision
- Explore livability
- Lay the foundation for future planning
- Explore growth alternatives
- Refine plan and policies

Question for Thara: How long into this process can BNOA make a difference on making changes to the plan?

Answer: Now is a good opportunity to address concerns such as balancing existing neighborhoods with new growth. Please attend outreach functions and spread the word to friends and neighbors to get involved.

Q: Is there a specific line item for older adults in the housing plan in addition to middle housing/low income? Older adults often have mobility problems so they will likely not be good candidates for multifamily housing with stairs or lack of accessible showers. Are there accommodations in plan for older adults?

A: Yes, there will be consultants updating housing needs assessment which will show better numbers on senior housing and feed into needing policies and regulations to provide codes that addresses senior housing options.

Q: One of the things that the BNOA Housing and Transportation Committee struggles with is older adults with a fixed income and where they fall on the AMI level and if they might be looked at as a different demographic group as their AMI percentages are decreasing significantly.

A: The housing needs assessment work will definitely be looking into this. The community has raised concerns about aging in place and multigenerational living, all those components will be looked at during the 2-year process.

Q: Does the City have preapproved plans for Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADUs) or adding ramps for accessibility so that people don't have to start from scratch to gain approval?

A: Detached ADUs are not currently allowed, it may be explored at a later time when detached ADUs are allowed.

#### ❖ Types of Outreach Activities

- On Demand
- [www.engagingbellevue.com](http://www.engagingbellevue.com)
  - Will be in-person this year
- In-Person & Virtual
  - Community workshops
  - Presentations on request
  - Tabling in the community
- Direct Mail

- Questionnaire
- Announcements
- Equity
  - Cultural Outreach Assistants
  - Translation & Multi-lingual outreach
- ❖ Open House Saturday “What will Bellevue look like in the future?”
  - May 7<sup>th</sup> 10am-1pm Stevenson Elementary 14220 NE 8<sup>th</sup> St
  - Register <https://bellevue-2044-openhouse.eventbrite.com>
  - Welcomed to stop in without registering

*Members highly encouraged to attend to voice your opinions and represent the older adults!*

- Members discussed topics to be addressed which include mega mansions, keeping the idea of City-in-the-Park, environmental impacts of new construction, and keeping the original intent of the neighborhoods.

**HUMAN SERVICES UPDATE:** *Christy Stangland*

- ❖ Human Services Commission Funding – applications closed last Friday. City of Bellevue (COB) received 137 applications for funding with one ineligible. Discussed process for reviewing applications and work will begin on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Commission will recommend amounts to fund \$5.5 Million.
- ❖ Out of 136 applicants, the ones that seem to serve older adults are: Sound Generations Meals on Wheels, Sound Generations Volunteer Transportation, Catholic Community Services Volunteer Services, Chinese Information and Services Center Russian Speaking Senior Day Program, Indian American Community Services Women Youth Seniors, Kin On Health Care Center.
  - Christy feels that case management services for older adults is a significant need.
  - All the Eastside Commissioners went through an equity training for reviewing applications, they will be looking carefully at culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate services.
- ❖ New staff Asma Ahmed will be starting on the 16<sup>th</sup>, came from United way, excited to have Asma join the team.

Question for Christy: Did the training call out older adult equity in the training?

Answer: No, it was more on culturally relevant services and diversity, focused on BIPOC and communities that have been suppressed in the past.

- Bellevue Essentials will be in person this year in September – November.

**NEW BUSINESS:** *(Dan)*

- ❖ Discussion on inviting City Manager Brad Miyake to speak – Dan would like to know what the group will be looking to hear from the City Manager, topics of possible discussion or questions include:
  - To help with advocacy – how and when does the city develop their state advocacy measures of legislation. If we want changes in the city of Bellevue, who are the best people to reach out to?
  - Where do older adults fit in the city planning? Is there a possibility to expand the definition of diversity to include older adults?
  - Older adults 65+ is 14% of Bellevue’s population, how does the city plan to take care of this 14%?
  - Active ageism and age discrimination in City of Bellevue, lack of concern for older adults in housing and transportation. Older adults are feeling underrepresented. How can this group make a difference?
  - Should BNOA have a position on what age “senior” should be for the City of Bellevue and present it to the City Manager?
  - Gazel suggesting members to review the 2021 demographic profile which shows the breakdown of age and have a working group to gather the numbers on a bi-weekly basis.
  
- ❖ Older Americans Month Proclamation on May 9<sup>th</sup> council meeting in person.
- ❖ Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 14<sup>th</sup> Diana will hopefully speak. Dan will get proclamation written which will be read at the June 6<sup>th</sup> City of Bellevue Council meeting, Diana will be allowed three minutes to give a verbal awareness concerning older adult abuse.
- ❖ BNOA will need to discuss keeping meetings on Zoom, return to in-person, or hybrid.
  - Quick vote showed 1/3 of members attending today would like to meet in person.
- ❖ If anyone has an idea for a speaker in June or something to discuss more in depth in June, please let Dan know. Will check with Linda Whitehead on City Manager possibly speaking.
  - Maybe discuss the age of seniors?
  - Eastside Legal Assistance director on estate planning documents needed for seniors?
  - Members agree there are many topics to discuss further, and a speaker may not be necessary for June.

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

**ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORTS:** *Minutes have not yet been approved.*

No meeting or minutes this month, committee has had difficulty meeting.

- ❖ Anticipated extreme changes in Medicare. 40% of people are in Medicare Advantage and 60% are not. They’re moving towards all being under Medicare Advantage. Many people like and want the freedom to go to the doctor of their choice. Would like to discuss this in the next committee meeting.

- ❖ Dementia Action Committee had legislature that passed the state – 2016 the Alzheimer’s plan was adopted but now directed under new legislation to revise the present Alzheimer’s plan.

### **OUTREACH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. BNOA will participate in Older Adult Day at Bellevue Farmers Market (BFM) on August 4. We will be able to invite four organizations. Paul will invite a SHIBA rep. Other suggestions were Fire Cares, Dale from Sound Generations, Catherine will provide a suggestion from CISC. What about Julie's professional organization re: caregiver support? No word on whether or not the NBCC band will appear. Should we ask attendees for bring a donation for Hopelink? Where can we get \$\$\$ for coupons/discounts/swag?
  2. Market Day not yet established for BNOA participation in BFM, will be monthly, May 12 is opening day.
  3. Neighborhood News (NN) delivery -- Lewis Creek needs to be added to distribution.
  4. NN monthly articles -- need one for October. Diana will write June article about senior-friendly 2022 legislation; Paul will take on Medicare/Medicaid changes for September. Paul will create a spreadsheet "history" of articles written for NN.
  5. King County Library System has resumed monthly resource fairs at downtown Bellevue Library, Hannah Kimball will attend to assess outreach value.
  6. Discussion of how best to increase older adult engagement in community and activity, maybe North Bellevue Community Center (NBCC) Advisory Board can help? A good task would be to create an e-mail blast list to remind/invite/publicize special events and recurring activities.
- ❖ First market day is next Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup>, Set-up at 2pm, market opens at 3pm.
  - ❖ 4 market days scheduled for the year, next one is on Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, and possibly September 4<sup>th</sup> and sometime in October, Janet trying to get details.
  - ❖ Discussing email blast to older adults regarding special events and recurring activities and compiling subscriber list.
  - ❖ Defining age of senior – maybe at the next meeting, discuss possibly incorporating this into the elevator speech.
  - ❖ October article on tax implications of selling your house – Kira volunteering to write it.

### **HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION REPORTS:**

Much discussion devoted to Thara Johnson's presentation in April BNOA meeting, many of the BNOA pre-meeting questions went unanswered, further research required, Thara will return in the Fall with additional information. 1/3 of Bellevue households are housing cost-burdened (i.e., pays more than 30% of income for housing), 1/2 of Bellevue older adults are cost-burdened. The presentation didn't provide a city definition of "senior housing". In the next 20 years, Bellevue expects to have 70,000 more jobs, and needs 35,000 new housing units. Du-, tri-, and four-plex's and ADU's are options, but face strong neighborhood opposition with regard to on-site parking and owner-occupancy.

Hannah, Gazel, Kathy and Kira agreed to take action item to gather/collate/synthesize/organize disparate "affordable housing" information and sources in an attempt to provide a reasonably clear summary of where we are, progress made, needs remaining as it relates to older adults.

The group's question to ponder: how can we gain set-asides of affordable housing specifically for older adults? Older Adults are being disproportionately affected by soaring housing costs.

- ❖ Working on trying to define information on affordable housing – let Gazel know if anyone is interested in participating.

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORT:**

None reported today.

**COMMUNITY MEETINGS:**

None reported today.

*Meeting adjourned at 10:35am*