

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
MINUTES

Dec 1, 2022 North Bellevue Community Center via Virtual – Zoom.

8:30am – 10:30am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Abigail Brown, Anne Rittenhouse, Beverly Heyden, Diana Thompson, Eleanor Lee, Gazel Tan, Hannah Kimball, Julie Hart, Kira Hackett, Mary Fredeen, Paul Bradley, Phyllis Smilen, Shelley Gehring.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barbara Carey, Catherine Wong, Desiree Leigh

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

GUESTS: Sariga Santhosh, Aging & Disability

PRESENTER(S): None today.

RECORDING SECRETARY: Betty Lee, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order by Abigail Brown and the roll call taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November minutes approved as amended.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- *Eleanor Lee*, nurse practitioner and certified in gerontology, lives and works in Bellevue, happy to join and serve the community.
- *Shelley Gehring*, director at Patriots Glen senior living memory care community in Bellevue. Former BNOA member and is back to serve the needs of older adults in the community.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

1. Committee roles, make-up, choosing committee for 2023
 - Are these the right committees? Are we approaching, attacking, and considering the right issues within each committee? Does it need to change in some way?
 - Beverly feels housing is a very important issue for older adults, more so than transportation.

- Phyllis states that housing and transportation is deemed very necessary in the community polls. Members have discussed separating the two issues into two separate committees but either way, as one or two committees, both issues are vital and should be maintained.
- Anne points out that housing and transportation many times go hand-in-hand. Gazel agrees and feels that the two issues need to stay together in one committee as it's closely connected, and there aren't enough committee members if it were to be split into two committees. Committees need to have a clear work plan for the year and strive to accomplish it, more than just discussing the issue but getting involved and doing projects. Hannah agrees with the above points.
- How about a position paper for Housing and another one for Transportation even if the work is done with one committee?
- Abigail states that the members need to go beyond just being educated but turn it around and make it actionable so that what we know can be useful for others.
- Kira states that compiling information is important but there is so much information out there which can be distracting. Suggesting looking at issues we are passionate about and deciding what our projects will be for the year and how the committees will split the work.
- Gazel points out that we lack is that BNOA has no way of getting input from the general community. How can we receive input and see results?
- Park Board is open to having regular check-ins with them.
- Abigail suggesting a virtual network to various facility representatives.
 - Shelley has connection to various older adult network and would love to help in this area.
 - Kira suggested having a BNOA email set-up through the City of Bellevue that can receive input from the community.
- Diana would like hand over the Advocacy Committee leadership. Abigail suggesting that committee focuses on local agenda.
- Diana suggesting continuous recruitment to add members throughout the year instead of once a year. Several members agree and will check if bylaws need to be changed in any way.
- Anne suggested having a binder for each BNOA member that outlines expectations, contact resources, role of chairpersons, etc., and pass on the information to new members. New members need clear communication regarding duties and expectations.
- Dan commented that bylaws need to be changed in order to add more than 15 voting and 5 liaison members, however, there isn't a restriction stating there can't be recruiting or adding members throughout the year.
- Anne requesting planning ahead to attend council meetings and various commission meetings together. Phyllis suggests watching it on TV if not able to attend in person and see how the meetings are run.

- Abigail suggested to use the public comment time to request their attention to certain issues and mention that you are part of the BNOA. Dan says he will need to check regarding making comments like this and will ask the city lawyer and follow-up. Hannah commented that once you bring up the organization you are part of, you are representing them.
2. What is wanted on the agenda for the January retreat.
 - Committees.
 - Discuss future of Advocacy Committee moving forward.
 - Continuous recruitment plan.
 - Exit interviews.
 - Attending various meetings in the city.
 - White elephant gift exchange.
 3. Kira's article that did not get published.
 - It is discouraging to have an article be rejected after such hard work was put into it.
 - Why would an article be rejected and are there guidelines for an article?
 - Is there a time frame given to edit the article if not accepted initially?
 - Dan is suggesting having a special meeting with Mark Heilman to discuss this issue, know the parameters, and have a better plan going forward.
 4. Goodbye to Catherine, Mary, and Paul, thank you for 3 years of service, thank you.
 - Mary would possibly like to stay on as liaison member.
 - Exit interviews will possibly be conducted.
 5. Position paper discussion
 - Dan feels that he is not getting the information the BNOA is looking for. It needs to be more than Dan reflecting on what it is the BNOA is looking and wanting to do. Dan would like to set up a meeting with Shelley and possibly Michael Shiosaki and have a deeper discussion. Members agree on having this special meeting.
 - It was decided that Anne, Hannah, Gazel, Abigail, and Julie will attend this in-person meeting at city hall.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37