

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING

MINUTES

April 4, 2024,

Hybrid Meeting held at North Bellevue Community Center, 8:30a – 10:30a

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne Rittenhouse; Eleanor Lee; Beverly Heyden; Andrea Kline; Kari Marino; Diana Thompson; Shana Aucsmith; Elaine White; Beth Hanley; Abigail Brown.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Julie Hart; Dianne Thompson; Barbara Carey; Bhavana Pahwa

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services – Recreation Div.
Christy Stangland – HS Planner

GUESTS: Hannah Kimball

PRESENTER(S): Katie Halse - CoB Intergovernmental Office

RECORDING SECRETARY: Daniel Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order by Anne Rittenhouse

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments from public members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 2024 minutes were approved.

PRESENTATION: KATIE KUCIEMBA HALSE - Intergovernmental Relations- City of Bellevue

Katie described the role of the City of Bellevue Intergovernmental Relations Office, its make-up and schedule of activity. Four staff work in support departments, especially for Transportation, Community Development, Parks & Community Services. The office works mainly on Federal and State legislative items but not too much with local needs concerning policy. One time per year the office works up to 105 days reviewing legislation that affects the City of Bellevue. The Office works closely with the Association of Washington cities which work to earmark community projects for funding on a state level.

For the State legislative agenda, the Office spends its time looking at issues that may need to be brought to the attention of the City Council.

The CoB legislative agenda is developed from those identified issues. The legislative agenda becomes the compass for the City Council in decision making. The State Legislative Agenda is adopted in October. On the first day of legislative session, bills are analyzed by subject matter experts. 378 pieces of legislation in 2024 were reviewed. The Association of Washington Cities review the information for the entire state of Washington and then supplemental budgets are pursued. Some of the main issues reviewed this past session included affordable housing,; public health including long-term health; refugees & immigration.

Katie encouraged the BNOA to forward their concerns to the intergovernmental office on an annual basis or as issues come up. The group spoke of timing to have the most impact on the city's legislative agenda and discussed October as the best time to submit information.

A BNOA member asked what needed to be done to stay in line with the CoB's legislative agenda. Katie indicated stay informed of current issues, give feedback to Intergovernmental Office on current considered legislation, let Intergovernmental Office know when BNOA is making their agenda and know that it is the CoB departments that give feedback.

Katie was invited to attend the BNOA Advocacy Committee anytime.

Human Services Report – Christy Stangland

Christy Stangland reported the Human Services funding session applications for 2025-2026 are due by April 8th. The Transportation Department has reported they no longer have staff that can attend the monthly EERC meetings so it would be worthwhile for BNOA to continue being involved in this eastside transportation meeting. Christy reported on the Redmond affordable housing unit at the old Redmond Silver Cloud and that the program is being operated by the Salvation Army.

A crises center is in the process of being opened in several cities adjacent to Bellevue with the first scheduled in Kirkland this summer. Two others located to the east and south of Bellevue will have youth mental health crises help and will be 24hour services. These are being developed over the next two years.

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

Advocacy Committee Report – Abigail

Abigail has sent everyone legislative agendas for Bellevue, Kirkland, and Redmond. Members can all provide input on what they believe should be on the BNOA agenda.

Outreach Committee Report – Shana

Shana reviewed with the team the status of the BNOA Resource Book. Updates are in and the booklet is getting prepped for an official printing.

Shana asked the members to inquire about agencies and businesses if the Neighborhood News could be placed for community access. Please submit these new findings to Shana.

Farmers Markets planning is underway and spaces for members to table the sessions are ready for sign-up. The first is on May 23. Senior Day at the Bellevue Farmers Market will be on Thursday September 5th. There will be space for six

non-profit older adult supportive agencies. Please provide Shana with any agency suggestions for the Fair.

An event is planned at the Bellevue City Hall for June 1 headed by Mark is scheduled for 9:30-noon. Please register to help with the BNOA table.

Housing and Transportation – Anne

All information is spelled out in the Housing and Transportation minutes.

Community Meetings and Events Attended

Anne talked about the **Silver Cloud homeless living site** that just opened. She attended the opening along with 200+ interested community members. Speeches from those developing this program were very informative. This program has been offered through King County Health through Housing Initiative. Rooms for those 56 years and old will be available and six ADA units available. In Phase II kitchenettes will be included. It is a non-smoking residence, but outside smoking areas are provided. The sprinklers and smoke detectors have all been caged, so they cannot be disabled in an attempt to allow smoking inside. Some of the rooms have a second bed, which on a case-by-case basis, may allow for a caregiver to room with a resident. The City of Redmond has recognized that there is a need to provide permanent supportive housing for older adults and has set a number of the units aside for that purpose. The current site has a shared kitchen area and lounge and a designated smoking area. Anne was able to speak with the Redmond mayor and Noreen Hamilton of the Redmond Senior Advisory Council. Anne is unsure what will happen if a resident breaks the living rules. Christy Stangland believes there is usually a system that allows for a back-slip with rededication to succeed by the individual.

Abigail indicated the **Memory Café** concept has restarted in Bellevue at the original site Tutta Bella of Crossroads Bellevue the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend to help participate in this exciting program for those living with memory loss.

Old Business –

Previously, some members on BNOA wanted to explore the idea of having an Older Adult Advisory Commission, which would have more of a direct connection to the Bellevue City Council. An Ad Hoc Committee would need to be formed to explore the pros and cons of having 1) BNOA become a "commission", or 2) Establishing a whole other separate group to be a commission (leaving BNOA as it is). Under the BNOA Bylaws, not enough interest was expressed to satisfy the conditions to establish said Ad Hoc committee. A motion was passed to remove this item from the monthly agenda, with the understanding that it could be revisited at a future date.

Name Tags –The decision was made to order name tags for the new BNOA members, and they will only display first names.

An Ad Hoc committee was formed to continue the follow-up work for future Joint Information Sharing meetings with the City of Bellevue. The date for 2024 has been set for Wednesday, October 9th, at City Hall. The Ad Hoc committee will meet following the BNOA monthly meetings to continue planning the event.

New Business -

The next Proclamation celebrates older adults' month of May. Members were asked to participate and maybe have a member provide some remarks to the City Council. Likely May 7th or 14th. Abigail is willing to accept the proclamation and provide a few comments if allowed. The proclamation has been requested of the Parks PIO staff and Dan awaits their notification. Members indicating able to participate include Bhavana, and Abigail.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35a.m.