

## **BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING**

### **MINUTES**

**May 1, 2025.**      8:30a -10:30a

**MEMBERS' PRESENT:** Anne Rittenhouse, Shana Aucsmith, Elaine White, Hannah Kimball, Lisa Corcoran, Lori Reinvik, Bhavana Pahwa, Beth Hanley, Kari Marino, Julie Hart Abigail Brown.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Barbara Carey, Andrea Kline, Beverly Heyden, Eleanor Lee, Adam Clark,

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dan Lassiter -Community Services Supervisor  
Christy Stangland- HS Planner

**GUESTS:** Alex Zimmerman; Joe Hanley-Seattle Council on Aging; Julie C.

**PRESENTER(S):** Cara Jockumsen, Dept of Licensing

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Daniel Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Alex Zimmerman – passed out a paper as a political opposition to the City of Bellevue mayor and spent his two minutes with political Rederick.

Joe Hanley, Seattle Council on Aging came to hear about the survey on older adults regarding driving.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *April 2025* minutes were approved.

## **Presentation: Cara Jockumsen, Dept. of Licensing: Older Adult Driving Study**

Cara described her history for 20+ years working with driver safety. The current studies purpose is to identify opportunities to align resources to future projects concerning older adult drivers.

Demographics of the study.

Those aged 70+ will substantially increase over the next 15 years. Licensed drivers will increase to 13% in this age group. Crashes involving those age 70+ are seeing a rapid increase. In 2015 there were 79 fatalities for age 70+. In 2023 that number increased to 299. For more information see the Washing Dept of Licensing dashboard.

Legislation has been awarded \$350,000 to study the situation and provide recommendations that will increase driving safety for the older adults. The now completed study is 145 pages and will be reviewed by a medical advisory board and then a plan will be established. This may include a pilot program; development of tools for aging out of drivers; expanding licensing restrictions and then evaluating the impact of those restrictions to improve the safety of older adult drivers. Then a community group will be organized to evaluate how the plan worked. This study should go live July of 2025. \$300,00 over the next two years will be spent to put tools in place to increase older adult traffic safety.

BNOA asked if there had been any plans beyond a study and Cara indicated “not at this time”. When a board has made recommendations the BNOA will invite the DOL back to hear the results.

End of presentation.

### **Human Services Report – Christy Stangland**

The Human Services Update surveys will stop at the end of May. Thank you to BNOA for participating in a focus group and NBCC for getting surveys to all the groups that use NBCC.

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

### **Advocacy Committee- Abigail**

The committee announced that instead of a State Agenda this year a local agenda will be the focus, specifically looking at the Friendly Older Adult City project that AARP is sponsoring.

### **Outreach Committee Report – Shana**

Farmers Market tabling help is being sought from BNOA members. The time has now been extended by 30minutes to end at 7:30p. Set up must be fully completed by 2:45p.

The BFM has no one registered on Aug 7. We will need to know if anyone will operate the table by June so if needed the session can be canceled.

The lecture on Advance Directives presented by Maureen Kures R.N. sponsored by BNOA, KCVSHSL went well but had about 20 people in the audience. More presentations are to come.

The Chinese Information Services Center Health Fair will be held at NBCC on May 21 and helpers are needed.

### **Housing and Transportation – Anne**

See committee minutes for information.

Ad hoc – City Department Meeting concerning Older Adult Awareness

The group has reviewed the purpose of the meeting and decided it would be more meaningful and impactful to attend department boards and commissions with a simple statement about older adults that can be given at the beginning of these meetings. No meeting with the departments is planned for 2025.

## **Other Business**

Andrea will receive the Older Adult Month proclamation on May 13<sup>th</sup>, providing comments to the council and Shana will receive the World Elder Abuse Awareness Proclamation on June 10<sup>th</sup> and provide a few comments about a local older abuse case.

BNOA members have been attending meetings on Land Use Code Amendments and Housing Opportunities in Mixed Use Areas. The group is trying to change property set-back rules for building and creating high density housing in neighborhoods. Several BNOA members see these issues as priorities that need addressed by BNOA.

Kari and Elaine attended a Planning Commission meeting and stressed more public and BNOA members need to attend these meetings and give their input.

***The meeting was adjourned at 10:30***