

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
MINUTES

May 4, 2017  
8:30-10:30am

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E-113

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ethan Crawford, Gazel Tan, Desiree Leigh, Lauren Emery, Janet Zielasko, Phyllis Smilen, Bob Megargel, Hannah Kimball, Beverly Heyden, Judy Dowling, Eileen Rasnack, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Howard Katz, Bill Merriman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Whitehead, Arlene Cheng, Jullie Gray, Jeanne Grote, Berta Seltzer, Diana Thompson, Sandy Shaw Jones

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Lassiter/Bellevue Parks & Community Services, Alex O'Reilly/Bellevue Human Services

GUESTS: Ray Lofink, Bellevue Police/Economic Crimes Unit

RECORDING SECRETARY: Vicki Barrett, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL** - The meeting was called to order at 8:30am by Chair Ethan Crawford.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 6, 2017** Ethan asked if there were any corrections or changes to the March meeting minutes. Name spelling correction for Ray Loping to Lofink was requested. Page 7 correction, correct the “he” to “she”. The minutes were approved with those corrections.

**[PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION] Detective Ray Lofink** – City of Bellevue Police Department/Economic Crimes Unit presented on economic crime in Bellevue.

How do people end up being victims of crime? Most crimes against the elderly are financial in nature. As we get older, our confidence to make financial decisions stays the same, but our capacity to think through financial decisions declines and we are unable to recognize red flags. Some families have taken measures for older family members to remain in their homes. However, at some point the aging family member may receive phone calls or mail soliciting for personal information as part of a scam. A lot of our aging citizens do not use on-line banking and so rely on the mail. The police discover that victims have given their financial information, such as a bank account number, birthdate and/or social security number to scam artists. If a scammer gets someone’s Social Security information along with their bank account number, the scammer can set up an online profile. At this point they can change the victims mailing address and can cash their checks as well as perform on-line banking to have the victim’s monthly check

deposited directly into the scammers account. Fortunately, nine times out of ten, the victim's on social security are reimbursed by the Social Security Administration.

The City of Bellevue Economic Crime Unit will notify the families of an elderly victim if a potential scam is occurring, helping to educate them and advise that it may be time to intervene with their family member financials.

In addition to an elderly person's declining thought processes, they are also more at risk if they have more funds to lose. Detective Lofink advises keeping a minimal amount in an elderly person's account and have direct access to other funds in a separate account that the family controls. This way if they get caught up in a scam, they will only lose a minimal amount. It was mentioned that there are always attorneys available to assist families with these type of issues.

There are only four members in the Economic Crime Unit. Detectives focus on cases where they think they can get a conviction. They rely on the patrol officers to take the initial reports then they respond. Internet/cyber stalking such as an on-line bomb threat, remains in the city's Violent Crime Unit. If it is financial/economic crime related, they will handle it. The city also has a Digital Forensic Unit that works on computers to capture stored information.

Banks are mandatory reporters, if they suspect financial exploitation they report it. Ninety nine percent of those go to the DSHS elder abuse group. DSHS in turn will send information to the Bellevue Economic Crime Unit for review.

Ray played a video from a recent Bellevue case that aired on local TV. An air duct company was soliciting service. They had just moved up from California and had a business license for Washington. This company was taking money from people and installing a fake item on people's air system and actually in some cases, caused damage to the original system. The scammer skipped out on their court date but was later arrested. Everyone should seek multiple quotes before purchasing a service. Do not entertain phone offers, just say no!

Detective Lofink mentioned that he believes upcoming generations are going to be more cynical than people are now. They are more educated and tech/scam savvy. Checks are very bad. If it's a credit card you can always dispute it. If you write a check, once it's cashed it's gone. Once they get your bank number, scammers can go on-line and create a user profile very easily because it's the first to have ever been set up.

Ethan mentioned AARP's fraud prevention and asked if there is anything the board can do to be proactive and assist the city. Detective Lofink replied that they are happy to come out and give presentations and or distribute any prevention information. The city currently has no assigned crime prevention officer(s). He also said they he would be happy to write an article on fraud and prevention now and then for Bellevue publications such as the Neighborhood News.

End of presentation.

Ethan handed out the Neighborhood News. He would like all committees to utilize this publication as a tool to solicit support. After hearing from the Advocacy Committee he suggested to have the legislative information/update published in the Neighborhood News.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Advocacy** (reported by Janet Zielasko)

The committee is reviewing the BNOA federal, state and local legislative agenda speaking points, which had been approved. Dianna is compiling talking points which Janet handed out to the board members for review. Dianna will be following up with Senator Adam Smith, Howard has a meeting set up with Dave Reichert scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup> at 9am. The committee would like four representatives from BNOA and four from Kirkland's Senior Council. The committee is coordinating who will attend the meeting. Cathy w/Kirkland Senior Council will follow up with Suzan DelBene for a potential listening session. Eileen will follow up with Senator Patty Murry for a listening session. Kirkland Senior Council will be reviewing the resolution focusing/advocating on the Social Security cap. BNOA/Advocacy will focus on medication expenses. No legislative is pending concerning medications but the committee will be pay special attention to the issue as the costs are rising. The hearing-aid bill did not pass the House, although it might still be included in the budget. Dianna is closely monitoring the situation. AARP wrote in support of covering hearing aids. Dianna went to Olympia to testify and wrote the Bellevue & Kirkland Reporters. Future meetings will focus on the Veteran's Human Service Levy piece which Alex O'Reilly has been helpful in supplying information. They would also like to hold a legislative forum, maybe in December.

### **Outreach, Education Diversity Committee** (reported by Gazel Tan)

A working session of a small group worked on updating the BNOA power point presentation. . This power point will be comprehensive where specific pieces can be taken out for particular presentations/audiences. They will try and identify groups that the BNOA would take this presentation to, then review the changes that need to be made. Gazel agreed to update the first draft and then bring back to their next meeting for review. They need pictures and discussed how to acquire these. They are hoping to have this completed in approximately 6 months. Dan mentioned that the Committee presented the BNOA priorities at the Human Services Commission last Tuesday. Alex and a few others said it went well. Hannah had found an article from the Seattle Times indicating a proposal was going around in the state where you could get aid for the elderly and child care. A proclamation will be presented at Council on the 15th for Older Americans Month and Linda Whitehead will receive this proclamation and have comments for the City Council. Another proclamation will be presented for Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 5<sup>th</sup> which Dianna Thompson said she would receive and make a statement to Council concerning local issues of abuse.

### **Transportation/Housing Committee** (reported by Judy Dowling)

The Transportation committee met on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The senior housing list on the ARCH web-site was in process of being updated by the committee with results to be turned in today. Their next meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month and will develop a transportation guide for seniors. Also, on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-5:30pm an affordable housing walk and shelter tour will occur and begin at Sophia's Place on Bellevue Way. Ethan asked if there will be an update on homeless shelters in Bellevue. Alex said that the City of Bellevue staff went back to council on Monday regarding the year-round men's shelter for clarification of questions received at a prior meeting. They were holding off on any decisions for 45 days. Alex O'Reilly discussed Puget Sound Regional Council saying every 4-5 years they update the regional transportation plan which covers Pierce, King, Snohomish and Kitsap counties. Alex will be discussing with someone from this council tomorrow regarding the needs assessment in East King County. They have special sessions regarding many aspects of transportation and one of them will be to discuss 'special needs' transportation. She will find out more about this and keep the committee updated.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS REPORTS**

**Eastside Rider** Jeannie did not attend as the date kept changing. Hannah said that this group meets every 2 months so no meeting has taken place yet. They will meet on May 30<sup>th</sup> in Redmond. It was mentioned that it might be a good way to talk senior transportation topics and issues.

### **Eastside Human Services Forum** (reported by Alex O'Reilly)

Alex expressed her appreciation for those who come to the listening sessions. They have been held recently at Evergreen Court in Bellevue, the North Bellevue Community Center with the Senior Tech Group, and an upcoming session with the Asian Senior Foundation. Gazel, Hannah, Desiree & Dan have been attending these listening sessions.

### **Timebank** (reported by Jeannie Grote)

They will be having their May potluck on May 11<sup>th</sup> at Lake Washington Methodist Church at 6:30pm. Jeannie offered to send out information with a map to those who are interested. This group holds an orientation meeting explaining how the organization works.

### **Aging & Disability Services** (reported by Beverly Heyden)

A speaker from the University of Washington (Aaron), came to their last meeting to talk about Health Care.

**Senior Lobby** Dianna Thompson was absent. No report was given.

## **New Business**

Dan mentioned that the Advocacy Committee discussed whether or not to bring up to the Medicaid resolution that Seattle had put in place. The discussion is about how to present the resolution to Bellevue Council in support of its' adoption. It was reported that the Kirkland Senior Council adopted a similar resolution to Seattle's. Dan mentioned that this is Federal and Bellevue doesn't usually take Federal into consideration however, it wouldn't hurt to go forward to the council office for review. King County has also adopted this resolution. Some discussion took place in how to present this to council. It was proposed that the Advocacy Committee go

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forward and insert the Bellevue data into the resolution then have it reviewed prior to presenting to council. It was voted on, passed and seconded.

**Staff Report** (presented by Daniel Lassiter)

Linda Whitehead will be attending the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 8pm to collect the proclamation from Mayor John Stokes. Dan will submit the Elder Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation right away as it will be presented at the June 5<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

Transportation is a topic that keeps coming up in the community. Dan mentioned that their committee needs to do further investigating to find out what the needs are for Bellevue Ethan suggested that in regards to all the Metro Park-N-Rides shutting down, that someone come and give a presentation to the BNOA and where alternate parking can be found. It was asked if anyone knew what the percentage is of seniors that take the bus. Orca card was mentioned for those 65+.

Dan asked for additional speaker suggestions. It was suggested that someone from Sound Transit to come to a meeting to give a presentation. Alex mentioned that the King County Mobility Coalition has a seat (Aaron), that oversees accessibility and perhaps he could also bring someone to talk about the other topic they were discussing. Alzheimer's plan update (memory loss), Human Needs Assessment update for maybe the November meeting, Looping follow-up/person from Redmond, follow-up on age friendly communities/Puyallup, Veteran's Administration to discuss what's available for senior veterans were all suggested.

June's BNOA meeting will be at City Hall. Another location may be needed for the August and future meetings do to Sound Transit construction. Dan said that the group could meet at the NBCC but they would need to change their meeting day's from Thursday' to perhaps Wednesday's.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.