

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING

MINUTES

April 1st, 2021

North Bellevue Community Center via Virtual – Zoom.

8:30am – 10:30am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gazel Tan, Gina Johnson, Hannah Kimball, Janet Jelleff, Beverly Heyden, Paul Bradley, Desiree Leigh, Diana Thompson, Abigail Brown, Linda Forshaw, Berta Seltzer, Mary Fredeen, Judy Stenberg.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Merriman, Catherine Wong, Phyllis Smilen

STAFF PRESENT: Daniel Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Christy Stangland, Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Betty Lee, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

GUESTS: Bob L. St. Louise Parish

PRESENTER(S): Kate Nesse City of Bellevue Associate Planner

RECORDING SECRETARY: Betty Lee

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March minutes changes were made and approved.

PRESENTATION:

Demographic Trends Among Bellevue Residents 65+ (Kate Nesse PhD- City of Bellevue Associate Planner Demographer, Community Development)

- City of Bellevue's population pyramid comparison for the past 10 years was discussed, the presentation slides can be viewed on the BNOA website's resources page demographic presentation PowerPoint.
- How are the age demographics structured:
 - Industries and job market.
 - Housing.
 - Amenities and quality of life.

- Location and percentages of Bellevue older adults in each neighborhood was shown on a slide, followed by a slide that showed the comparison if seniors were distributed uniformly across the city based on population.
 - Kate discussed in detail four neighborhoods: Bridal Trails, Crossroads, Downtown, and NE Bellevue – two areas with senior deficit and two areas with more seniors than expected and the contributing factors for both.
 - Bridle Trails – housing structure:
 - Owner occupied housing in large plots, more likely to move to another location due to property maintenance.
 - Crossroads - social structure:
 - 57% born abroad
 - About half of folks born abroad in this neighborhood entered the US in the past 10years.
 - 12% of households are some sort of non-family multi-person household.
 - 19% of housing units are owner occupied
 - NE Bellevue - aging in place:
 - 82% of housing units are owner occupied.
 - 67% of households have no children.
 - About half of the housing was built in the 60s.
 - Cougar Mountain/Lakemont was built in the 90s.
 - Downtown – retirement destination:
 - Number of people over 65 increased by 260% since 2009.
 - All units are multi-family.
 - Highest per-capita income in the city
 - 37% of rental households pay more than 30% of their income in rent.
 - ❖ Transportation: 13% of households headed by someone 65 and over do not have a vehicle.
 - ❖ Housing: About 38% of households headed by someone age 65 or older are paying more than 30% of their income in housing costs.
 - ❖ Charts showing percentage of people under and over 65 living in group quarters and percentage of householders over 65 who are renters. (details available to view on presentation PowerPoint.)
 - ❖ Race & Ethnicity: Senior population is becoming increasingly diverse- slide showing percentage of race by age for 2010 and 2020 available on presentation PowerPoint.
 - ❖ Disability: People in Bellevue are less likely to have a disability than the region as a whole. Older people generally are more likely to have a disability.

Questions: (Kate will follow up with unanswered questions in the new few weeks)

1. Do we know how many older adults continue to work past retirement to supplement social security?
2. Is there a way to determine if someone is unhoused and how that impacts aging adults?

3. With the expiration with the rent moratorium, do you foresee critical needs coming forward? *-Kate is working on figuring out how to assist tenants and work with landlords to keep them in their housing situation.*
4. Is there a way to understand when seniors decide to move, if they're moving to other parts of Bellevue or out of Bellevue? *-Kate doesn't have a way to track this because data is tracked on a county level.*
5. How many have no access to digital equipment or internet access?

Please feel free to email or call Kate Nesse with any additional questions.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Members were asked to read the following committee report minutes before the meeting for discussion:

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MINUTES:

1. Funding amount now known by Alzheimer Association/Dementia Resource Catalyst. \$1.9M request for additional resources including education. Diana wrote to Lynn Cort seeking clarification of group and who receives the funding. Diana will then ask BNOA for aligned support. Desiree explained that funds will be used to enhance existing programs by Area Networks on Aging per Brad Forbes, further clarification may be needed. Abigail proposes an amendment showing general support to the legislative agenda. Kathy, Abigail, and Diana discussed including dementia care in current long term care infrastructure legislation pass-out; "Support services that address persons with dementia and their caregivers and/or families." Abigail proposes we wait for Lynn Cort's input and ensure coverage for both long term care and aging in place. Diana proposes adding to upcoming BNOA agenda, Kathy Iverson will add to Kirkland Senior County(KSC) agenda for April meeting.
2. Contact with legislators in the 41st District-Judy, Others: Received appointment to speak with legislative asst. Hamasaki for Rep. Thai, the offices of both Sen. Wellman and Rep. Senn did not respond to appointment requests. HB1218 did move forward to Senate floor, supported by Rep. Thai and sponsored by Rep. Senn. Provided thank you to Ms. Hamasaki for Rep. Thai's support and advocacy for seniors. Judy, Diana, and Kathy discussed budget provisos which are voted in by legislators. Lists of budget committee members are available online.
3. Contact with legislators in the 1st and 45th Districts—Kathy, others: Kathy sent letters with BNOA/KSC pass-out, received message from office, awaiting response. Diana encourages writing letters to all legislators requesting support for BNOA/KSC sponsored bills and budget provisos. March 17, 7p, virtual town hall (FB or YouTube) for 45th district to include discussion of insurance bill regarding use of credit score for determining premiums. Personal letters to legislators encouraged. Group discussed concerns with information privacy.

4. Progress on Bills BNOA is following: many are moving forward per Abigail, she will email details from legislative RSS feeds.
 - ❖ Abby commented all 5 bills that BNOA is currently supporting are still working their ways through their various stages and committees of the state legislative process.
 - ❖ Diana commented BNOA supported 3 bills that will decrease the cost of prescription and 2 of the 3 are moving along, 1 has a 37% excise tax on marijuana, they're trying to eliminate this tax for medical marijuana.
 - ❖ 1460- Broadband and digital equity is dead.
 - ❖ 1218- assisted living facilities and adult family homes is moving along. Legislature ends in April. Diana will let members know if she needs any support from members going forward.

TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING MINUTES:

- Berta provided a brief historical review of BNOA Housing/Transportation activities. Phyllis reported out on the Salt House project for affordable housing. Karen Hartman expressed interest in, and concern about, the 85th Street freeway project, which apparently will include retail facilities' demolition. One of KSC's concerns about affordable housing is the "missing income middle" for available housing. Bellevue faces a similar problem. Judy Stenberg discussed trying to define "older adult". Judy also cited DART bus service and crosswalk travel times as issues facing older adults. Hannah has the current senior housing option info from ARCH and will be forwarding the info to each committee member for the annual update.
- Attendees agreed that working together, or at least checking in on a quarterly basis to share information and strategies, is a good idea. Cities across the eastside share many commonalities when it comes to affordable housing and convenient, accessible transportation for older adults.
- ❖ Dan commented the committee met with Kirkland Senior Council and came away little confused on what we want to do as a group so there's a meeting set up to discuss the direction of the committee going forward.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES:

- Christy Stangland presented information re: Bellevue Human Services' needs assessment update and consumer survey. Still difficult to reach all older adults, how can we expand "reach"? Suggestions included Neighborhood News, SHAG, Eastside Neighborhood Network, homecare workers, Hopelink foodbanks, local churches with active outreach, low income housing facilities, Meals on Wheels, ESL classes, KCLS talk time.
- In our continuing work to create a wide distribution list for information sharing, we contacted many local churches. Few have responded. The older adult group, Forever Young, from St.

Louise was the exception. Hannah will contact Bill Merriman to see if we can get a contact at Bellevue Presbyterian.

- Janet announced awesome good news! Bellevue Farmers Market will allow us a regular table at the weekly market. Paul, Hannah, Mary, Gazel and Janet volunteered to host throughout market season.
- Mary Fredeen will author the acceptance response for COB's Older Americans Month Awareness proclamation/observance at Bellevue City Council. Submission deadline is April 15th.
- NBCC is offering Silver Sneakers, Enhanced Fitness (on-line) and ESL (on-line). Limited in-person community center usage will begin Monday, April 12. Weight room and all programs can be reserved 7 days in advance of desired use date.
- ❖ BNOA will be in council May 3rd for Older Adult Proclamation on Zoom, however waiting for confirmation and could possibly be moved to following Mondays.
- ❖ Janet commented Neighborhood News will be available at SHAG from hereon.
- ❖ North Bellevue Community Center will be re-opening on April 12th.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS:

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (Hannah)

- Crossroads Connect project is moving along, still looking for ambassadors which you can apply for on their website.
- Eastside Transportation Workshop is on April 14th at 11:30am is being sponsored by the Greater Redmond Transportation Management Association (GRTMA), please sign up online to attend.
- Hopelink is acting as an intermediary for county wide volunteer driver's program, you can apply to be a volunteer on their website.
- King County Mobility Council is doing a needs assessment.

Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council (Diana)

- Aging and Disability Services is essentially under the Older American Act. States are required to have a number of agencies and WA has about 10. Diana serves on the Seattle King County agency which meets on 2nd Friday of each month if anyone is interested in attending or applying for membership.
- WA State Senior Assistance Lobby meets 3rd Monday of each month if anyone is interested in attending, currently held virtually.
- There's a bill that allows a person to have a will or a trust and not sign in presence of an attorney and witnesses. AARP is supporting this bill but two attorneys on the senior lobby don't think there is enough protection for the older adults.

MEETING & SEMINAR REPORTS:

- Cultural Conversations – stories and presentations were outstanding and learned a lot about the people who are newer to the community. Linda highly recommends attending.
- Affordable Housing Community Conversation – they looked for a lot of input from the community, and the collected information is accessible in engaging Bellevue. They currently have approval for faith and non-profit organizations to build affordable housing on properties they own. Land-use code is being changed to allow more density and possibly make changes to parking requirements. Gazel will forward the link to members for more info.
- Paul shared that as of July 1st, Sound Generations will no longer be sponsoring the SHIBA volunteers but joining hands with a brokerage firm that has a division called “We Speak Medicare”. SHIBA volunteers are currently looking for another sponsor in King County.

NEW BUSINESS: (Dan)

- May is Older Adult Awareness month.
- June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – Diana will do the presentation.
- Presentation for May: Death with Dignity – Wendy Norman with End of Life Washington.
- Still looking for someone to present for June.
- BNOA will not meet in person in May due to distancing, likely will have to wait until 3 ft sit-down distancing is allowed to meet as a group.
- Paul commented Seattle Times had an article regarding crosswalks with longer walk signals. Hannah volunteered to look into details and determine if committee wants to support or lobby for something different.
- Abby questioned if there’s any additional security in place for Asian/AAPI seniors or anyone of color with safety concerns based on recent attacks. Dan will check with the city to see if there’s increased security or resources for those concerned but stated there’s a code of conduct expected of all people which is standard on-going.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am