

**BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
MINUTES**

June 1, 2023, Hybrid of Virtual – Zoom utilizing the OWL product and in person at North Bellevue Community Center.

8:30am – 10:30AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Abigail Brown, Beverly Heyden, Diana Thompson, Eleanor Lee, Anne Rittenhouse, Gazel Tan, Kira Hackett, Julie Hart, Shana Aucsmith, Barbara Carey.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Phyllis Smilen, Hannah Kimball

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Christy Stangland, Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Jen Newton, Bellevue Parks & Community Services Manager

GUESTS: none

PRESENTER(S): The BNOA members begin developing a Summit plan for City of Bellevue Departments and BNOA.

RECORDING SECRETARY: Daniel Lassiter, 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: May 2023 minutes approved with the addition of spelling Christy Stangland's name correctly and that AARPA is changed to ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) on page 3 of the minutes.

PRESENTATION: BNOA member work on a plan for a City of Bellevue summit.

The BNOA created a "position paper" concerning older adults needs being recognized in the City of Bellevue. That paper was presented to Parks & Community Services Department Director, Michael Shiosaki and then the essence of that position paper was presented to the City of Bellevue Department leaders which included the city manager and deputy managers. In that presentation it was agreed that a summit meeting would occur, gathering representatives from departments deemed necessary to participate along with members of the BNOA who represent Bellevue older adults in an effort to express the older adult community living needs. This is hoped to be repeated a couple times per year. Today's efforts are the beginning reflections of organizing the content for that summit.

What does BNOA want from the summit?

1. Everyone in the City of Bellevue (CoB) organization would recognize older adult and pre-older adult community living needs and their demographics be considered in planning processes. The ask of CoB leadership is to put on your older adult hat and think like an older adult on every category served by the CoB Departments.
2. Hear what the various CoB departments do for older adults. List what their plans are for this demographic.
3. Express the older adult need and be heard, meaning some kind of action that indicates that the older adult was heard.
4. Figure out the best way for departments to connect with CoB community and communicate for future planning.
5. See a plan that includes older adult's metrics and methods to get required information back to the older adult.
6. Desire is for older adults to have a place to see the consolidated list of services available to them.

7. Have a housing plan developed specifically with older adults in mind that addresses downsizing, affordable housing, allows for assisted living, and caregivers.
8. Why is there no real affordable housing for older adults.
9. How does the city work to include a space like “Silver Glen”?
10. Adequate transportation options for older adults, which includes adequate parking spaces as walking to bus stops or down the street is not a viable option for many older adults. This includes a backup plan for apartment building situation and the bus route changes leaving few transportation options.
11. How can the older adult have a consistent voice in the various department plans.
12. Hear ways that the CoB is represented regionally such as Eastside Easy Rider Coalition (EEOC) or King County Mobility.

The BNOA discussed the best days and times for a summit and decided on three possible dates.

Choice # 1 Wednesday October 11th in the morning,

Choice #2 Wednesday October 4th in the morning,

Choice #3 Wednesday September 27th in the morning.

Dan will work on which divisions within the departments might be the best to attend and have the information by the next meeting.

Work that needs to be completed that isn’t directly related to a summit agenda includes:

1. Who should attend as older adults?
2. What are the statistics on the percentage of Bellevue Older Adults?
3. Define what a dementia friendly city is and consider how can the CoB be dementia friendly?
4. How can the older adult age in-place.

5. Why are older adult homeowners being pushed out of Bellevue?
6. How can the BNOA get the message out to Bellevue public that BNOA and older adult resources exist?
7. How can services and programs be listed at one site?
8. Make a CoB definition of what constitutes a “senior”.
9. What support is there for caregivers in the CoB?
10. How to help get financial planning in place when people are young to plan for future costs of aging.
11. Discuss a method to improve the transportation matrix developed by BNOA.
12. Research information concerning construction of buildings for affordable living for older adults.
13. Research some communication:
14. What changes is the city making now to planning, etc. that will negatively impact housing and transportation (ADU off-street parking issue; or taking away parking spaces; forcing people to utilize public transportation creating a reliance on a system that can change on you quickly.)
15. CoB representation on EERC and King County Mobility Coalition needs considered.

The BNOA members decided to continue the planning process at next month’s meeting after the presentation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Human Services Report: Christy Stangland

American Rescue Plan Act (AARPA) funding recommendations went to City of Bellevue Council the end of May for approval of the scope of work to be completed. Human Services staff will be completing an annual monitoring visit and the agencies who have received funding will get a rating on how well they did what they said they would do.

The Bellevue Human Services Commission is touring agencies and will be at North Bellevue Community Center June 23 to visit Chinese Information Services Center (CISC) programs and to take a look at NBCC.

Public comments are always welcomed at the beginning of the Human Services Commission meetings. On June 21 a guest speaker on aging will be discussing the current hiring challenges.

A new manager for the Human Services Division is being sought.

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

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT: *Diana Thompson*

A presentation will be held at the June Advocacy Committee from Seattle Aging and Disability Services. The speakers will be Diana Steph and Meg Wood. They will be speaking about the Gold Card Program which is region wide. All are invited to attend and learn about the older adult discount plan.

Diana indicated that the Hearing Aid bill passed legislation this session. Health plans must already cover hearing aid fees and there are some exceptions to the program. For more information review the legislation bill.

World Abuse Awareness Day is June 15th, and a City of Bellevue Council Proclamation will be read. Diana Thompson will receive the proclamation at the council meeting on June 12th, 6pm. Anne, Abigail, Shana, Gazel, Dan and Diana plan to attend.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The upcoming Resource Fair for Older Adults will occur at North Bellevue Community Center on June 24th, 11 – 1. Volunteers were enlisted. Anne will set up. The products for the BNOA table are ready to go to Dan's office.

The Crossroads Farmers Market opened and the BNOA will attend June 6th noon – 6. Neither a table nor tent is needed as provided by XRoads of Bellevue. Volunteers were enlisted to attend.

A discussion was had on what is allowed by potential council members attending the market that were campaigning. It is clear that the potential councilmembers are not to use any BNOA material at the markets and that no network member representing BNOA can throw support to any candidate under the name of BNOA. Dan will send out the rules for the City of Bellevue to the members.

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

Anne is working with Mike Stanger of Bellevue to set up a tour of affordable housing for older adults on the east side. A group of approximately seven BNOA members are interested in attending a tour and Dan will arrange one of the NBCC vans to tour the members with Mike to approximately three sites. A date is currently being set and it might be a weekend.

COMMUNITY MEETING REPORTS:

BNOA has been informed that they are unable to show support for or against the new King County Veteran, Senior, Human Services proposed levy, as directed by the City of Bellevue Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion was held on the use of the OWL during this meeting and future meeting to allow hybrid meetings. The overall consensus was that the OWL was useful, and people were able to hear and see each other pretty well. July 6th will also be held at North Bellevue Community Center in person, with the OWL to allow a hybrid meeting. NBCC doors will be open at 8a for members and guests to the meeting. August will need to be via Zoom only if another site cannot be found.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am