

**BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
MINUTES**

January 4, 2024, In-person meeting Retreat
8:30am – noon

MEMBERS PRESENT: Abigail Brown, Mary Rita Hurley, Beverly Heyden,
Diana Thompson, Eleanor Lee, Anne Rittenhouse,
Shana Aucsmith, Andrea Kline, Kari Marino,
Bhavana Pahwa, Elaine White, Beth Hanley.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barbara Carey, Julie Hart

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community
Services – Rec. Div.

GUESTS: Asha Gharib

PRESENTER(S): BNOA Retreat

RECORDING SECRETARY: Daniel Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community
Services

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 2023 minutes approved with spelling of
Anne amended on page 3.

PRESENTATION:

RETREAT AGENDA

OUR MISSION: The BNOA is dedicated to healthy aging in our community by promoting awareness of needs and resources that support older adults through life's transitions.

Welcome: Dan Lassiter, Community Services Supervisor North Bellevue Community Center introduced Jen Newton, Parks Manager, and Jen welcomed the members and appreciated their willingness to serve the older adult population as part of the Parks & Community Services Department.

The new Chair for 2024, Anne Rittenhouse, was introduced and appreciated as was the past Chair Abigail Brown for her two years of diligent leadership.

Self-Introductions of all BNOA members and city staff was led by new Chair Anne Rittenhouse.

Review Roberts Rules of Order as developed for the BNOA by the 2023 Ad hoc committee were described in detail by Anne and Abigail with a copy given electronically and in paper form to members. It was determined to use the same Robert Rules in the committees, but everyone recognized a less formal environment existed in the committee meetings.

Reminders were issued to read the minutes and agendas prior to the meetings.

The two-minute rule was emphasized for attending guests of the meeting.

The request was put forward to watch how emails are being responded to and only cc those individuals who really need to see the emails.

New Business

Members discussed the possibility of BNOA being a City of Bellevue (CoB) council appointed commission. The historical result of the same action in years past was described to the group by Dan with emphasis on the BNOA bylaws

indicated purpose under the Parks & Community Services Department Director. The historical result of asking to be a Council appointed committee has been rejected. The group would like to discuss the possibility of once again pursuing the action and talked of methods to take the action on. It was suggested there could be two groups, a BNOA and a Council appointed commission to reflect older adults' needs in Bellevue. It was decided to make this an Ad Hoc committee at the February meeting to talk more in depth of the possibilities.

Vice Chair – Discussion to adapt nomination process for 2024 only as one member nominated had only been on BNOA for eleven months and the bylaws state a one-year experience on the network is required. The BNOA agreed to allow the eleven-month term for Shana Aucsmith count as one year and be allowed to be on the ballot for Vice-Chair. An on-line election will be completed prior to the next BNOA monthly meeting.

An updated Legislative Agenda had been sent to all members before the retreat for review and Diana quickly described the changes and reasons for the changes. The agenda was approved by the BNOA members.

Zoom vs Microsoft Teams and/or live meetings for future meetings were brought up for discussion by Dan. The merits of live vs virtual meetings were discussed, including the staff time taken up for both methods. It was determined to have hybrid meetings using the OWL and have live-only meetings as the group determines necessary (such as the December meeting). A request was made to spread the chairs in the meeting room several feet apart due to ongoing Covid outbreaks.

New Members orientation plan was determined to occur in place of the February speaker. All members will participate in the orientation with Dan, Anne, Abigail, and ex-member Hannah leading the session. Other members will assist with specific points as needed.

BNOA December potential changes for 2024. The group discussed taking a break for most December committee meetings and several may do that, but the consensus was to leave it up to each committee.

BNOA possible goals for 2024

1. Plan for continuation of CoB Department meeting. It was determined to make an Ad hoc committee to develop an ongoing plan around the subject.
2. 2024 Presentations for BNOA meetings were discussed and several possible subjects were discussed. The group wants to hear about the Human Services Update Report, the Planning Department progress and from the CoB Intergovernmental Staff on how the system works.
3. Development of Electronic Storage of BNOA info for members use only. – Abigail. The group agreed to take this on as a project and Abigail will lead the activity in making it happen. CoB IT's department has already been approached and agreeable to creating a site for BNOA members to connect.
4. Local agenda items to think about focusing on: establish local senior networks; broadband access; disability concerns; caregiver issues; food insecurity; isolation, housing, transportation, ARP funding to seniors. Sidewalks covered bus stops, etc...

Committee Grouping. The Network split up in groups of Advocacy, Housing & Transportation and Outreach to determine:

1. which committee each member will be participating in.
2. Meeting day and time adjustments.
3. Note taker or shared note taker per meeting.
4. Choose a chair or co-chairs.
5. Create outline of 2024 work plan.
- 6.

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

Meeting adjourned at noon.