



Clark County Commission on Aging
Webex Remote Meeting
Vancouver, Washington

Annual Retreat Notes

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Chuck Green (Chair), Larry Smith (Vice Chair), Cass Freedland, Amy Gross, Franklin Johnson, Meghan McCarthy, Pam Wheeler

Absent: Nancy Dong, Tanya Stewart

Staff: Jacqui Kamp, Jenna Kay

1. Updates

- Franklin provided an update on the first Transportation System Plan Sounding Board meeting. He will connect with Tanya when she is back. This project only covers the unincorporated areas of the county, so it will not address transportation items related to crossing the Columbia River or within any of the cities.
- Amy provided the latest updates from Public Health regarding COVID-19. At the time of her report, case counts were down in Clark County. Case rates were down across all age groups except for those 70 years and older. That age group's case rates have been flat since roughly March 2021. Approximately 58% of adults 16 or older have received at least one vaccine dose. Public Health is helping coordinate vaccinations for those who are homebound and for those who are unhoused. With vaccines now readily available at pharmacies and doctor's offices, the Tower Mall mass vaccination site is scheduled to close at the end of June, 2021.

2. Welcome & introductions

- Cass was welcomed to her first meeting. The group participated in a round of introductions and icebreaker questions.

3. 2021 mid-year check-in

- Overall sentiment is that things are going well so far with the Commission's work this year
- **Suggestion** to be more focused on policy ideas with speakers
- **Decision:** replace September topic of healthy and connected communities: intersections and opportunities for social connections with housing and homelessness topic. September meeting could address the following:
 - Homelessness, affordable housing, housing programs available for seniors
 - Ask speakers to focus on older residents
 - Possible speakers: Bryan Snodgrass, City of Vancouver; Peggy Sheehan, City of Vancouver; Jamie Spinelli, City of Vancouver
 - Clarify housing accommodation options for seniors and the cost of each



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- **Decision:** plan to develop 2021 recommendations – the group agreed to use the same approach as previous years:
 - Commission members continue to debrief after each meeting and staff record debriefs in meeting notes
 - Early fall: staff will draft recommendation ideas based on notes from the year
 - Mid- to late-fall: commission reviews, revises, and approves recommendations

4. Good of the order

- Meeting procedures: Chuck sought confirmation about approach to attendance if commission member misses 3 meetings in a row or 4 meetings in a year.
 - **Decision:** Group agreed it makes sense for the chair to check-in with anyone missing multiple meetings to find out what is going on
 - **Decision:** Moving forward, instead of having a motion to excuse members not in attendance, the commission will note absences and then move on with the meeting
 - Question from the group: has attendance been better or worse with virtual meetings compared to in-person meetings? **Action Item:** Staff didn't know but can look that information up.
- Officer elections:
 - Commission elects the chair and vice chair annually
 - Vote to take place at July meeting
 - New officers start at August meeting
 - **Action Item:** Staff to send out email before July meeting. If interested in either position, reply to email and include a few sentences explaining your interest.
 - **Action Item:** Staff will compile and share full list with the group prior to July meeting so the group knows who is interested in each position.
 - Vote for officers will take place during the July regular meeting
 - The current chair and vice chair encouraged rotating who holds these positions.
- Liaison roles:
 - Current liaisons include:
 - Aging and Disabilities Resource Network, quarterly meetings
 - Public Health, monthly calls
 - Accessible Transportation Coalition meetings, quarterly meetings
 - **Action Item:** Staff to send email about liaison roles before July meeting. Commission members can confirm interest in serving in any of the liaison roles and share ideas of any additional groups/organizations would like to build partnership with
 - **Action Item:** Add liaisons to July work session agenda

5. 2022 planning: focus

- The group reviewed the pre-retreat survey responses about 2022 focus ideas
- Observations on all of the ideas:
 - Partnerships are really important. We don't want to duplicate services.
 - Civic engagement: understanding the role of volunteerism and organizations working together; sharing ideas and practices; ways organizations are funded; encourage organizations to work together as clusters and groups
 - Engagement and advocacy
 - Advocacy/community engagement/partnerships: volunteers will form a strong bond, build connections
 - Engagement and advocacy is the focus that was canceled in 2020. We can elaborate on that idea.
- Regarding engagement of older adults:

- Senior housing complexes are re-opening their conference rooms. There could be an opportunity under engagement to have someone in a conference room with technology set-up and have residents participate in our meetings. We would be going to them, it could help with isolation and we could hear about their experiences
- There are also conference rooms at senior centers. We might be able to work a strategy out around that where seniors might not come to the Public Service Center, but can get to their local senior center
- **Decision:** Group generally agreed on overarching theme of community engagement/advocacy/partnerships
- **Action Item:** Subcommittee to work on weaving together ideas and will bring back to the full group
- Subcommittee:
 - Franklin
 - Cass
 - Staff to check with Tanya and Nancy to confirm if interested
 - Larry back-up if need third person

6. 2022 planning: Aging Readiness Plan

- The group reviewed the pre-retreat survey responses regarding what to do with the Aging Readiness Plan
- Jacqui shared information about the amount of time and resources that went into development of the first Aging Readiness Plan
- Discussion:
 - COVID-19 pointed out what was working and where there are holes
 - We need to be clear about what is being gained from the update. What is the purpose and impact it can have?
 - The Aging Readiness Plan has a really solid foundation. It could be interesting to use its foundation and weight it against lessons learned
 - All organizations waking up after COVID. We want to be realistic in our proposal. We need to shape it to be accepted and endorsed and not competing with other community organizations/efforts.
 - Seems like a comprehensive update may be too much, but a limited update may be too little
 - A comprehensive update is a massive project. How do you have monthly sessions on a topic and also pursue an Aging Readiness Plan update?
 - With an update to the Aging Readiness Plan, what are we updating to? We don't know what "normal" will be. Might need 1 more year of being flexible to better understand that.
- **Action Item:**
 - Invite Community Planning Director, Oliver Orjiako, to July work session and talk through options, understand Community Planning bandwidth and get his take on a comprehensive update and a limited update

7. Small group debrief

- The commission split into two groups to debrief the retreat and discuss final thoughts.
- Final thoughts shared with the whole group are incorporated into relevant note sections above

Next Meeting: July 21, 2021 – 3:30pm.

Adjournment: The retreat adjourned at 5:30 pm.

The Clark County Commission on Aging provides leadership in community engagement and advocacy of Clark County's Aging Readiness Plan, especially for those 65 and over who plan to age in place.