

Work Session Notes

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Members Present: Chuck Green (Chair), Nancy Dong, Cass Freedland, Amy Gross, Larry Smith, Tanya Stewart and Pamela Wheeler

Absent: Franklin Johnson (Vice Chair) and Meghan McCarthy

Staff: Susan Ellinger and Jenna Kay, Community Planning

1. Hybrid meeting FYIs

- This was the first COA hybrid work session and meeting, so Jenna Kay outlined some hybrid meeting information to assist staff and members in the transition to the new meeting format.
- Some of the items, that may also be useful to remember for future meetings included:
 - One of the most common issues we have encountered with a hybrid set-up is the echo that people who are remote will hear if we leave our mics in the room unmuted when not speaking.
 - For members attending virtually, if you are noticing any echoes or other sound or visual quality issues, please let us know. It's possible you may experience issues differently from people in the room, and vice versa.
 - For members in the room it is very important for the quality of the virtual experience to keep you microphone muted when not speaking

2. April 20, 2022 work session and regular notes review

- There were no suggested changes to the notes.

3. Subcommittees

- Aging Readiness Plan Update
 - Susan Ellinger reviewed the process to date and outlined the next steps, including interviews with proposers on April 26, 2022. Chuck Green thanked partners on the interview panel from Community in Motion, AAADSW and Public Health.
 - Chuck Green asked when the selected firm can be announced, before or after the contract is signed. Staff agreed to ask Purchasing this question and report back. Purchasing responded that we should wait until after the contract is fully negotiated before announcing which firm is selected.
- Appointment Process Update
 - Susan outlined the appointment process, including interviews that occurred on May 3, 2022. The recommendations for new members were sent to the County Manager. The next step will be notification from the County Manger's office regarding her appointments.



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4. Community presentation updates

- City Councils
 - Done: La Center, Camas, Battle Ground, Ridgefield
 - Up next: Washougal, Yacolt
 - Chuck Green asked if there were any lessons learned that members giving presentations wanted to share.
 - Cass Freedland noted that Camas Council members were welcoming and interested in what COA was doing and had several questions about the work.
 - Amy Gross mentioned that the hybrid format made hearing comments from the council members difficult. She felt that building a relationship with the members would be a good idea.
 - Chuck Green commented on the number of questions that Battle Ground City Council members asked regarding accessible floor plans, entries, and communities. Ridgefield City Councilors asked about assisted living facilities in the county.
 - Chuck also mentioned a discussion he had with County Councilor Rylander and the expense of building and operating assisted living facilities including the expense of having 24-7 staff and the realities of staff shortages. He would like to debrief more in the retreat about this topic.
 - Larry Smith commented that there is a lot for council members to learn about, including boards and commissions from each city and from the county, and what each may be able to accomplish. He also commented on the growth in senior living facility demand and the challenges they experience as the number of older adults grows.
 - Tanya outlined that she is ready for the Washougal presentation on May 23.
- Others
 - Cass commented on a presentation she made to the Fairway Village Democratic Forum. She included some of the findings from the 2021 COA survey because several people in the Fairway Village neighborhood filled out the survey.
 - There were about 25 attendees and they asked lots of great questions, including how to join the commission. Other questions included safety, expansion of the new on-demand transit service from C-Tran (The Current, see <https://www.c-tran.com/thecurrent> for additional information).
 - There was also particular interest in the AAADSW resources. AAADSW can be contacted at helpingelders.org or 360-694-8144.
 - Chuck commented that he had been in front of the County Council for three proclamations recently. They were well received. The proclamations were for National Healthcare Decisions Day, Older Americans Month, and Dementia Friends.

5. Schedule updates

- Jenna shared the current version of the speaker plan for the year. She has been working with commission members on scheduling guests and asked members to send her contacts for the monthly fireside chats as soon as possible.
- Staff is also looking for volunteers to coordinate the September volunteer coordinator session. Cass volunteered. The working version of the calendar for the year is posted on the website.
- Chuck asked about scheduling a session with the new County Council member, Richard Rylander. Cass volunteered to join Chuck for this meeting.

6. Public comment debrief

No public comments were received since last meeting.

7. Other

- Chuck mentioned that Franklin was not able to attend the meeting today. Since Chuck will be moderating the discussion, he requested a new agenda item to allow an acting chair during the Fireside chat. Larry expressed his interest in fulfilling that role.
- Jenna reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings. She outlined that June will be the regular annual retreat and staff will be working to plan the agenda with the chair and vice chair meeting. She also mentioned that this will be the first meeting for new COA members.
- Chuck may not be available for the July meeting due to travel for work. He may be able to attend remotely. He mentioned that Franklin may need to chair the meeting if he is unavailable or unable to connect.
- Chuck also mentioned that he wants to include a discussion of how the agenda is set for the meetings and avoiding marathon meetings. If any members have any suggested meeting topics for the retreat, please send them to staff.
- Chuck asked if staff would facilitate the retreat. Jenna commented that staff could discuss this with the Chair and Vice Chair, as an outside facilitator may be an option.

9. **Upcoming meetings/topics:**

- June 15, 2022 – No regular meeting. Commission retreat.

10. **Adjournment:** the work session adjourned at 3:48 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 the place of their choosing.