

Work Session Notes

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Cass Freedland, (Chair), Franklin Johnson (Vice Chair), Sue Cameron, Chuck Green, Mel Sanchez, Larry Smith

Absent: Amy Gross, Meghan McCarthy, Tanya Stewart

Staff: Susan Ellinger and Jenna Kay, Community Planning

Guest: Rose Newberry, consultant with Dudek

1. Hybrid meeting reminders

Chair Cass Freedland opened the meeting and reviewed logistical reminders for hybrid meetings.

2. Review of February 15 and March 15 work session and regular meeting notes

- There were no suggested changes to the meeting notes.
- **Action Item:** Staff to add Feb, Mar, and Apr meeting note adoption to May 2023 meeting agenda.

3. Public Workshop Prep

- Aging Readiness Plan project consultant, Rose Newberry, talked to the group about how the in-person and online hybrid public workshop dot exercise would work and answered questions from the group.

4. Subcommittees

- CoA application review committee. The committee met and reviewed the 12 applications received. The group has selected 8 people to interview next week. Cass Freedland noted the interview questions are being updated to reflect the need for excellent public speakers with the roll out of the updated Aging Readiness Plan.
- Aging Readiness Plan update. Susan Ellinger provided an update to the group on the status of the project.
 - Staff is completing another review of the draft chapters right now.
 - The week of May 8, staff will send draft chapters out to CoA members and local service providers for review and comment. Staff will send CoA members the chapter(s) for the focus group(s) they attended last fall. Review time will be approximately 3 weeks.
 - Staff will conduct another round of review focused on layout in June.
 - A public review draft will be ready by July.
 - The final draft plan is on the schedule to go to the Planning Commission in August with County Council to follow in September.
 - Discussion:



- Chuck Green noted the schedule is a little later than previously discussed. There is a lot on the Planning Commission and County Council meeting agendas, so it may be good to go in between other big, controversial topics.
- Mel Sanchez asked about what will happen with the results from the workshop sessions? Susan explained the consultant team has written a summary of the public outreach activities. We will need to discuss if we want to include all of the detailed comments in the final plan. We can decide if we want to include them all in the plan or just a summary. Jenna added that the feedback should be informing the plan. So, we have the raw comments. We have a summary of those comments. Then we have chapters with background information and strategies. The strategies should be reflecting the feedback provided. When you [commission members] are reviewing, if you feel like public feedback is not sufficiently reflected in the plan and its strategies, that is good feedback to provide to the consultants.
- Mel clarified when commission members would see the above items? Staff responded:
 - a. Today's workshop will include 68 revised strategies. This is your first chance to provide feedback.
 - b. In May, draft chapters will be sent for your review via email.
 - c. In July, a further revised public draft of the plan will be provided for your review.
- Mel noted he has an agenda and brought people to a meeting to share feedback on their concern. He is interested if in the future, the commission might be able to do something about that.
- Chuck noted that people spent quality time with us at our workshops. Is there a way to take the photos of the boards and virtual comments and create a page of the raw public comment. It doesn't need to go into the final report, but we could save it as a technical appendix.
- Larry Smith asked if the comments have an author next to them? He also noted that he agreed with Chuck, and would like to see feedback going back to the individuals so they can see that their comments counted.
- Franklin Johnson asked if we could handle the public comments similar to what we did with the community member survey. We could have all the comments in one place, and also highlight major trends.
- **Action Item:** staff can discuss with the consultants the above comments and how we can incorporate and preserve the public comments from the project.
- Cass Freedland commented that when the commission reviews the comments, it will give us a chance to push past some of the superficial ways to think about topics and dive into the deeper issues to address in our public meetings. Maybe there's something systemic, or maybe something is a passing phase. If we are doing work that is substantial and integral to ageing here, that seems important.
- Franklin Johnson asked if it would be possible or appropriate to do an article in the news media to thank those who showed up and participated in the process? Susan shared with the group that staff discussed with the Chair and Vice Chair writing an article in The Messenger about the Aging Readiness Plan this summer. She asked Franklin if the thank you component would be part of that or something separate?
- Chuck Green noted there seems to be an opportunity to publicize what's coming and when and an opportunity to say X# people attended four workshops virtually and in-person and provided y# of comments. It could be a media release from the county, and the newspapers can pick it up. It also can say get ready, here's the plan. He noted he liked the idea of thanking people. **Action Item:** staff to publish news release and reach out to reporters this summer that both shares the draft plan, a summary of the engagement process, and thanks those who participated.

- Mel noted the article on the Clark County Council meeting earlier this year was nice. It would be nice if at the end of this project, we could have another article to let them/the community know what we have done. **Action Item:** staff to also reach out to newspaper reporters this summer.
- Larry suggested that an interview on CVTV is another possibility. Cass could do an interview as the chair. **Action Item:** Staff to contact Clark County Communications Office to get on CVTV piece this summer.

5. 2023 Work Plan & Schedule

- May is Older Americans Month. The County Council will be reading a proclamation at their May 2 meeting. The CoA Chair and a representative of AAADSW will make brief remarks after the proclamation.
- City Council presentations. Staff are beginning to schedule annual presentations with the city councils. As meetings are scheduled, staff will request CoA members to volunteer and co-present with staff. The presentations are a shortened version of the presentation you gave to the County Council in February. We will also update the section on the Aging Readiness Plan update project to reflect where we're at with the project. CoA members volunteered to present as follows:
 - Larry: Vancouver, also willing to be a back-up for anyone
 - Mel: Battle Ground, Yacolt
 - Sue: Washougal
 - Cass: willing to fill in where needed
 - Franklin: willing to be back-up for anyone

6. Public comment debrief

Since the commission's last meeting, staff have not received comments except for questions about the public workshops or vacancies on the commission.

7. Other updates

- Liaison reports
 - ATCI. Chuck and Mel attended last week's ATCI meeting. The group does know about the ARP update. The project is on the group's agenda for July. The presentation at last week's meeting was on the Regional Transportation Plan update. Chuck and Mel asked how the ARP update would be incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Plans? They raised these as questions to ponder as each project moves forward. Cass asked Mel to think about if he wants to stay on as an ATCI liaison or not. **Action Item:** staff to connect with ATCI liaison(s) prior to July meeting on ARP presentation.
 - Public Health. Amy Gross has been serving as the CoA liaison with public health. Staff commented that they checked in with public health staff recently and public health staff recommended continuing regular check-ins between a Commission on Aging member and a public health staff member. That is one liaison role that will be available with Amy's departure. Amy will be continuing in her role as an older adult advocate on the Public Health Advisory Council, and if the commission wants to build a liaison/connection with her in that role, that is an additional option for the group to consider. Sue volunteered to be involved in a liaison role with public health.
 - **Action Item:** Liaison transitions for ATCI and public health will be discussed further at the commission's annual retreat.
- AAADSW business cards. Cass asked AAADSW for business cards that she now carries around and passes out to folks to help let people know where they might find aging resources. She can get more and share with others if of interest. **Action Item:** commission members to let staff know if would like AAADSW business cards.

- Senior property tax exemption. Chuck noted the state legislature voted to update the senior property tax exemption to change the eligibility requirements and dollar thresholds and recommended inviting the Assessor back to present to the commission in the future. He also suggested the updated law be reflected in the Aging Readiness Plan. **Action Item:** staff to note as possible future presenter for commission consideration when developing work program. Staff to relay updated bill to consultant team to reflect in Aging Readiness Plan background information.

8. Adjournment

The work session adjourned at approximately 3:55 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.