

## Work Session Notes

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

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

Absent: Meghan McCarthy

Staff: Susan Ellinger and Jenna Kay, Community Planning

### 1. Hybrid meeting reminders

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

### 2. Review of January 18, 2023 work session and regular meeting notes

There were no suggested changes to the meeting notes.

### 3. Final Prep for presentation to Council

- Attendance of in-person and online guests and details of the presentation were discussed.

### 4. COA application review committee volunteers

- Chuck Green started the conversation by explaining that he has accepted the Public Works Director position with the City of Ridgefield. The council action that created COA outlined that members cannot be a county or city employee. Chuck explained that he wants to respect that fact, so he sent his letter of resignation to the County Manager, effective at the end of May. This timing will allow his vacant seat to be advertised with the other vacancies coming up in May and allow him to work on a final draft of the Aging Readiness Plan before he leaves.
- Larry Smith asked about other vacancies on the commission. There will be four total vacancies, including the one year term to backfill Chuck's position.
- Larry Smith, Mel Sanchez, and Franklin Johnson volunteered to be on the application review committee.
- Chuck also noted that the ATCI liaison position will need to be filled once he leaves. He had volunteered to give a presentation to that group in July or August on the ARP update project, which someone else will now need to do.
- Chuck plans to still give his poster presentation at the International Transportation Engineers conference, to be held in Portland, OR later this year.
- ACTION ITEMS:
  - Staff to schedule the application review committee meeting
  - Staff to request a volunteer for the ATCI position and summer presenter to group

### 5. Aging Readiness Plan update

- Susan Ellinger asked for feedback on the January 18, 2023 workshop.
- Franklin Johnson shared he thought it went well but was hoping for a bigger turnout.



- Cass Freedland noted she liked the exercise.
- Franklin asked how many members would be in attendance for the March session and encouraged members to attend. This session will be in-person at Battle Ground City Hall.
- Cass asked if Mel Sanchez would say a few words since he lives close by to Battle Ground and Mel agreed.
- Jenna Kay asked to have members encourage those they know to attend.
- Susan commented that Dudek supplied drafts of the chapter introductions and those are being reviewed by the ARP subcommittee.
- A subsequent review will occur on a more complete draft of the full chapters in mid-March. Additional COA members and service providers will be asked to participate in that review.
- ACTION ITEMS:
  - Staff to add Mel Sanchez to the list of speakers for the March session.
  - Commission members to encourage those they know to attend the March workshop.

#### **6. CoA 1-pager**

- Cass Freedland thanked the subcommittee and staff for creating the document.
- Larry Smith outlined that he gave a presentation to the residents of the Springwood Retirement Center regarding the Aging Readiness Plan Update. He used the handout as a speaking tool. He plans to visit other facilities and will use the handout as a part of those presentations as well. The handout got positive feedback from the residents.
- Larry also thanked members and staff for putting the document together. He commented that some people in the community think that COA members have to be over 55 to be on the commission, so explaining that is not the case in the future is important.

#### **7. Support letter policy revisions**

- Cass Freedland gave a short description of the proposed changes.
- Chuck Green outlined some additional proposed changes, adding governmental entities to the third criteria for consideration.

#### **8. 2023 schedule & work plan update**

- Jenna Kay outlined that documenting outreach activities completed by the commission was mentioned at the last work session. Staff is proposing to include those presentations as a part of the COA meetings webpage and that listing the outreach activities in more detail in the Annual Report is another possibility. Cass Freedland commented that sounded like a good way to meet that request and have a clear record of the activities.
- Chuck Green noted he thought that would help fulfill the community engagement mission of COA.
- Jenna explained that the March 15 commission meeting will be another ARP workshop, held from 3:30 to 5 PM and will be held at the Battle Ground City Hall. There will not be an online component. It is a repeat of the January meeting. There will not be a work session in March.
- Amy Gross asked what the role of the commission is for the meeting. Jenna explained that Cass and Mel will say a few words, followed by a presentation by the consultants. COA members will be asked to help facilitate the session by discussing comments with attendees and providing their own feedback with sticky notes.
- Chuck asked staff to extend an invite to the Battle Ground City Council to welcome the COA to their location and offer the mayor a chance to say a few remarks. Larry Smith supported this idea and suggested extending the invitation to others as well.
- ACTION ITEM: Staff to reach out to the Battle Ground City Manager.

- Mel Sanchez asked the purpose of the March meeting. Jenna outlined that the purpose of the meeting was to provide feedback on existing ARP strategies and propose new strategies for the updated plan.

## 9. Public Comment

- No public comments were received in the last month.

## 10. Other Updates

- Liaison Reports
  - Amy Gross outlined that since she will be terming out of her position on COA, she plans to share that fact with Dr. Melnick in relation to her position on the Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC). She also suggested that COA members could send questions and concerns to Amy and she could share those comments with the PHAC.
  - Chuck Green commented that he understood that the position could be filled by someone from COA or from the aging community at-large. He suggested supporting Amy's ongoing appointment in the position. Cass expressed appreciation for Amy's offer to act as a conduit between the two groups. Amy also commented on the breadth of work that the PHAC does.
  - Jenna Kay commented that Amy's last meeting is in May, and suggested that the commission should start the conversation about a public health liaison, if they are interested in continuing building that connection, and how that will occur moving forward after Amy transition off of CoA.
- Councilor Meetings
  - Cass Freedland explained that she and Franklin Johnson met with Council Chair Bowerman and Councilors Marshall and Yung in the past several weeks.
  - Franklin Johnson commented that each councilor shared personal stories in the meetings that reinforced that they are engaged and supportive of the commission's work.
  - Cass also expressed that the conversations reinforced that issues with older adults can come up very quickly and beginning to have conversations to anticipate issues and connecting people with resources early is important.
  - Franklin outlined that there is an emotional component with issues related to older adults and this was expressed in the personal stories shared by the councilors.
  - Cass stated that there is an opportunity for the commission to creatively move these conversations forward.
- Community Presentations
  - Cass Freedland discussed the Feb. 13, 2023 presentation to the Neighborhood Association Council of Clark County (NACCC). There was interest in the Universal Green Design Idea Book and making homes more livable as we age.
  - Larry Smith discussed his presentation at the Springwood Retirement Center. During the presentation, the movie *A Man Called Otto* came up which deals with the topic of suicide in relation to older adults. Larry expressed the importance of connecting with friends and relatives and having resources like a crisis hotline, which is now available by calling 988. More resources are available at <https://clark.wa.gov/covid19/mental-health-and-support>
  - Franklin Johnson asked about the mental health resources that were available at the Springwood Retirement Center. Larry responded with an explanation of the resources but also expressed concerns for those individuals who are alone in their own residence that he visits as a Meals on Wheels volunteer.
  - Amy Gross commented on a Facebook group that she is part of for partners of stroke victims, which can affect people of all ages.

- Mel Sanchez asked about the work that Larry does reaching out to residents. Larry explained that he has flyers about different services that are available, including Community in Motion because transportation is such an important issue. Mel asked about information Larry gives out to Meals on Wheels recipients. Larry explained that there are specific things that the volunteers are asked to look for when they do their visits.

## **11. Adjournment**

The work session adjourned at 4:06 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.***