Clark County Commission on Aging
1300 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Vancouver, Washington

Work Session Notes

Wednesday, May 15, 2019
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Members Present: Chuck Green, Amy Gross, Marjorie Ledell, Linda O'Leary, Donna Roberge, Larry Smith

Absent: Marian Anderson, Ali Caley

Staff: Jenna Kay, Jacqui Kamp

1. **January 15, March 20, April 17 COA work session notes**
   - All work session notes were approved

2. **Takeaways from recent meetings**

   Approach moving forward

   Moving forward, the COA plans to debrief after the presentation(s) on points to remember for later, including reflections on:
   - What have we heard?
   - Potential recommendations
   - Request(s) for more information

   February 21 transportation summit takeaways
   - Survey feedback was a mix of some saying presentations were too long or too short, several comments on technical issues, overall very positive.

   March 20 presentation takeaways – Healthy Communities Overview
   - Nothing new to add.

   April 17 presentation takeaways - Parks and Recreation
   - Possible recommendation: is a metropolitan park district a good idea?
   - Possible recommendation: like Ridgefield, the county and other cities could consider setting a goal for parks or open space. With every new development, X amount of land could be set aside.
   - There are three types of parks in the county: regional, community, neighbor. Regional parks tend to be county owned.
   - In Ridgefield, developers set aside 25% of open space. A different pot of money is used for developing parks.
   - Naming parks is another facet of parks and recreation.
   - Recreation involves both recreation at parks and recreation to/from parks.

- Community centers are very powerful and valuable for seniors. Possible recommendation: build another community center, i.e. in unincorporated Clark County. It costs money which is a big factor, but it would be a valuable resource.
- Intertwine – you get a better outcome with a cross-disciplinary approach. Possible recommendation: councilors may want to consider cross-disciplinary approach in commission and task force development.
- Recommended resource: Ridgefield Parks Flipbook. Liked that they dreamt big and have a resource they are using proactively.
- Angela really put a face on the aging and had great stories. She really spoke to the social impact of community centers. Like that community centers are multi-age, it doesn't make sense to have single-age facilities. Intergenerational is a big theme.
- Has there been a park where a group like master gardeners was asked to implement an idea? There are organizations that sponsor parks and volunteer their time with clean-up and maintenance projects.
- Vancouver-Clark County used to have a joint parks department, made up of a mix of county and city staff with a single director. The consolidation was to help standardize parks. There was concern over how the money was being split between jurisdictions and the department separated in the early 2000s.

3. **Human Services Council requests**
    - Ask #1: HSC Accessible Transportation Coalition representative
        - Asked for a COA member to join the Accessible Transportation Coalition, or, alternatively, to have a member from the Accessible Transportation Coalition present to COA a couple of times per year.
        - Group liked idea of being presented to one-two times per year.
        - Group also liked the idea of offering COA representation on ATC as an opportunity for COA at the retreat. If anyone is interested, they could join. **ACTION ITEM: staff to add this as retreat agenda item.**
    - Ask #2: Partner/sponsor transportation summit.
        - Need more information, to clarify needs.
        - **ACTION ITEM: staff to follow-up with HSC and will then circle back.**
    - Ask #3: Ideas regarding coordinated human services transportation plan.
        - Group supportive and glad to help.

4. **By-laws update**
    - Group reviewed proposed by-law revisions and primarily discussed the electronic meeting attendance item:
        - Concern that it could be abused by not showing up in person. Solution: not intended as a regular occurrence and provisions added to proposal text to reduce likelihood of abuse.
        - Electronic option could help with quorum needs.
        - Need to be able to hear, two-ways, or won't work.
        - Experience was positive in situation where system was connected to the PA system.
        - Some like theory of it, but have had rocky experiences in other situations.
        - Could we do better recruitment geographically with a phone option?
        - Hard to participate when you are the remote person.
        - Group agreed to trial run during the July retreat and will then strive to make a decision at the August COA meeting.
        - **ACTION ITEM: staff to organize call-in option for Chuck for retreat.**

5. **Report to city councils update**
    - Battle Ground had good feedback and interest in incorporating ideas into their upcoming land use and transportation systems plan update.
    - Camas presentation– discussion around new areas north of town with little infrastructure.
    - It seems like the presentations are getting better.
    - The City of Vancouver is planning to set up a webpage to connect to COA's webpage.
    - Need volunteer for Vancouver PC – July 9, 5pm. Amy can do it.
    - Suggestion: could be interesting to hear from mayors and county chair and their perspective on the state of aging in their jurisdiction. **ACTION ITEM: staff to add to retreat agenda.**

6. **Healthy communities topic update**
   Jacqui provided an update on scheduling the rest of the presentations for the year. Most are scheduled. There are two dates where staff is still working to confirm details.

7. **Prep for June meeting speakers – Healthy Foods**
    - Some senior communities are far from a grocery store. We plan for roads, sewer, etc. What about food?

8. **Commission appointment process update**
    - Committee reviewed 15 applications, interviewed six people, and recommended four to the county manager.
    - The county manager accepted the committee's recommendations.
    - Final approval is expected next week by the County Council as an item on their consent agenda.

9. **July COA retreat planning**
    - Retreat is scheduled for July 17, 3-6pm at the Public Service Center.
    - Group expressed interest in having a retreat facilitator. Thought Donna Sinclair, facilitator from last year, was good.
    - Agenda – main topic is what we want to do next year
    - Ideas discussed:
        - Crossroads year, could focus on ways to advocate, develop approach with legislature
        - Discuss having chair of county council and mayors to come talk
        - Housing has the most energy around it
        - ARP will be 8 years old in 2020. Discuss potential update.
    - **ACTION ITEM: staff to draft retreat agenda. COA to review in June. Connect with Donna as facilitator**

10. **Announcements/Updates**
    - Amy – provided update on complete street/sidewalk needs in her neighborhood to Councilor Olson. Recently noticed sidewalk going in and received call from the Public Works Department. They provided an update on their sidewalk survey and explained how they use grants to fund projects. Impressed with responsiveness of both the department staff and Councilor Olson. Amy followed-up with Councilor Olson to thank her.
    - Chuck – the Meaningful Movies Project will being showing a movie called Coming of Age in Aging America on June 26 at 7pm at the Old Liberty Theater in Ridgefield. They

are looking for a COA member to join a panel of speakers to discuss the movie afterwards. The group supported Chuck attending as the COA representative.

11. Next Meeting: June 19, 2019 – access to healthy food

12. Adjournment: The work session adjourned at 4:15 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.