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

Work Session Notes

Wednesday, August 21, 2019
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Members Present: Nancy Dong, Chuck Green, Franklin Johnson, Marjorie Ledell, Megan McCarthy, Larry Smith, Pam Wheeler

Absent: Amy Gross, Linda O'Leary

Staff: Jacqui Kamp, Jenna Kay

1. **June 19 COA meetings**
   - The work session notes were approved.
   - Takeaways from June 19 meeting on healthy foods: in addition to what is in the notes, can we make sure the annual report highlights the value of Meals on Wheels and farmers' markets and how integral these offerings are to cities and the county?

2. **July 17 COA retreat**
   - The retreat notes were approved.
   - 2020 Summit discussion. The group brainstormed and further discussed the 2020 summit. Questions and ideas from the discussion included:
     - Who would we invite? Local and state legislators or a representative in their place, COA partners (ie AAADSW, HSC, etc.)
     - What's the hook?
     - What would they get out of it?
     - How can we incent the people in the room to take action?
     - How to help local legislators feel like there is an urgent need?
     - Can this help light the fire?
     - Do we need some sort of visual to help show the urgency?
     - Do our local legislators get how much seniors contribute? Can we emphasize the valuable assets that seniors are? Seniors are a powerful block. Seniors vote. Seniors contribute to the local economy. Can we share the statistics on this and emphasize the financial and political impact of this group?
     - Salute to seniors.
     - Elder Power.
     - Needs to be fun.
     - Could each city recognize and invite a senior to honor?
     - The City of Vancouver has a program called Sparkles, where you can nominate a neighbor and recognize people who do things that may not be widely known.

[redacted]

- Staff could reach out to cities/Mayors to identify a senior to recognize and present an award to.
- If you are an honoree, you could bring your family with you
- Each city could have a table
- Research other ideas, if other cities have done something similar
- Discussed how to recognize or draw from a bigger pool of seniors. Cities could use their own process, which might draw on neighborhood associations, etc.
- Need to think about timing, structure.
- Could invite a famous senior in Clark County, i.e. Sam Elliott
- Summary
    1. Elder Power Summit.
    2. Keynoter.
    3. Showcase seniors for each city.
    4. Ongoing advocacy – to pound home COA requests.
- Summit sub-committee: Chuck, Larry, Franklin.
- Next steps: sub-committee to meet and help move ideas forward. Can share back at next COA meeting.
- **ACTION ITEM: staff to coordinate sub-committee meeting**

- 2020 Community engagement/advocacy focus
    - The group reviewed a draft scope of work for the 2020 work plan.
    - The group discussed that four town halls, monthly or bi-monthly meetings in between the town halls and additional community engagement with organizations like the neighborhood association coalitions and rotary.
    - Revisions to the plan included:
        1. Flip the order of the district town hall schedule, so that district 4 would be in March 2020, district 3 in May, district 2 in Aug, and District 1 in Oct.
        2. Instead of doing additional presentations to the seven Rotary Clubs and the neighborhood association coalitions, could invite them to attend the town halls.
    - Staff would notice the town halls as a public meeting so that a quorum of COA members could attend.
    - **Next step & ACTION ITEM: staff to run town hall idea by the County Council and then report back to COA.**

3. By-laws revisions and discussion

- The group discussed the bylaw revisions.
- Chuck suggested tabling the electronic meeting attendance edits until the county has a different, web-based electronic software. He had trouble hearing some people remotely and had trouble fully participating remotely. His experience has been that web-based software where you can see the people in the room works much better than the current set-up.
- Marjorie expressed her concerns with the electronic meeting attendance and that until earlier this year, COA hasn't had quorum issues. She also wants people to be able to take vacation and not feel like they need to participate, and likes the public being able to see the commission.
- The group agreed to vote on the other bylaw revisions in the regular meeting.

4. Healthy communities topic update

- Staff provided an update on speakers scheduled for the rest of the year.

5. **Prep for September meeting speaker – Complete Neighborhoods**
    - Would like to hear about the relationship between complete streets and complete neighborhoods
    - **ACTION ITEM: Chuck wants to think about it and will email his questions to staff**

6. **Officer elections information**
    - The group discussed how officer elections would work during the regular meeting
    - Larry has expressed interest in being chair. Chuck offered to serve as vice chair.

7. **Announcements/Updates**
    - Complete streets update
        - Clark County Planner, Gary Albrecht, provided an update on the complete streets program and code changes the county is working on
        - If COA wants to submit a letter regarding the proposed changes, Gary recommends submitting it by Sep 5
        - The group discussed one amendment they would recommend to the proposal regarding pedestrian easements as follows: *"D(1)(a). Improvements to develop a complete street should not preclude the ability to separately develop pedestrian/bicycle connections from adjacent neighborhoods."*
        - The group will vote on this item during the regular meeting.

8. **Next Meeting:** September 18, 2019 – 3:00pm.

9. **Adjournment:** The work session adjourned at 4:15pm.

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.