



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

MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, February 19, 2019
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Nancy Dong, Amy Gross, Franklin Johnson, Marjorie Ledell, Meghan McCarthy, Larry Smith, Pam Wheeler

Councilors: Eileen Quiring, Temple Lentz, Julie Olson, Gary Medvigy

Absent: Chuck Green (CoA), Linda O’Leary (CoA), John Blom (County Council)

1. Welcome and call to order

Larry Smith opened the meeting.

The Commission on Aging introduced themselves. The committee excused two members: Chuck Green and Linda O’Leary.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

Approval of meeting minutes

The November 20 meeting minutes were approved.

ADRN update

Amy Gross provided an ADRN update. The last presentation in December was on Kaiser and other organizations working on a system to get medical and other support needs met in a seamless system.

2. Presentation: Clark County Commission on Aging 2019 Annual Report

The Commission on Aging presented its annual report to the County Council. Details on the presentation are available in the CTVV video recording and presentation slides.

Discussion:

- **Councilor Medvigy** asked about the meaning of a universally designed park. **Commission on Aging** members explained that it means that anyone can use the park, no matter their mobility abilities and challenges. For instance, the park can be enjoyed by someone who uses a wheelchair or a walker. It also means that the park is designed with multiple age groups in mind, for instance, you might build a park with a playground



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office
Voice 360.397.2322 Relay 711 or 800.833.6388
Fax 360.397.6165
Email ADA@clark.wa.gov



for young kids and also include a walking path that adults might enjoy. It could also mean including benches with a back, having few to no steps, and good signage that is easy to see.

- **Councilor Lentz** appreciated the report recommendations up front. Regarding the universal design recommendation for parks, Councilor Lentz would like to continue that conversation with the rest of the Council and recommended that the Commission connect with the Parks Advisory Board. Councilor Lentz also expressed interest in the mobile service provider recommendation, i.e. a space that can be used for mobile pet clinics or mobile fresh food distribution. She would be supportive of helping support these initiatives if there is something the county is currently doing that is creating a barrier. Councilor Lentz requested a copy of the Camas tree ordinance and was interested in discussing National Healthcare Decision Day further with the Council. **Commission on Aging** members noted regarding mobile services in the county that the Humane Society is starting to offer mobile pet clinics for people experiencing homelessness with pets, that farmers markets seem to be expanding throughout the county, and that local veterinarians offer services at Share periodically.
- **Councilor Olson** noted that when she lived in Oregon, there was a program where she was given a tree. She would be interested in looking at Camas' tree ordinance as well. She also wondered what a tree budget could look like and where that money would come from. Councilor Olson also recommended connecting with C-Tran regarding the transportation-related recommendations. **Commission on Aging** members noted that there are existing non-profit organizations, such as Friends of Trees, where volunteers will plant a tree in your yard for you. Commission members also noted that we have been in communication with Shawn Donaghy and others at C-Tran, especially when focused on transportation, and liked the suggestion to reconnect with C-Tran on the current set of recommendations.
- **Chair Quiring** commended the commission on their excellent summit on transportation and appreciated that some of the commission's work focused on the rural community. She thanked the group for their participation on the commission and appreciated that the annual reports are always thorough and emphasize something each year.
- **Commission on Aging** members noted that seniors are economic development because they will spend money, go to restaurants, etc. It is just a matter of getting seniors to various locations. They also noted that getting seniors into schools to have shared experience with kids who may not be exposed to older adult mentors at home. There is a lot of talent in people who are 65 years old.
- **County Manager Hennessee** noted that he has not seen mobile farmers market here, which he has seen be very successful in places like Kansas City. It was a way to address healthy eating and transportation at once. He also mentioned that transportation will continue to change in the future and that older adult isolation could become a bigger issue as the transportation technology changes and people may not be comfortable with the new transportation modes. **Commission on Aging members** noted that the Vancouver Fire Department started to bring smaller vehicles out to homes for medical calls when they didn't need the larger vehicles. Members also noted with the changing retail environment, one option for healthy food distribution could be having a mobile healthy food stand/vehicle travel to different areas on different days of the week.

3. Public Comment

- **Milada Allen:** I volunteered with the Luepke Center for many years and enjoyed every minute of it. Every time I took seniors out on trips, they really appreciated it. I am also the Felida Neighborhood Association president and have been very involved with parks. In Felida, we have seen the problem of the cookie cutter approach to parks that doesn't really address the kids who are disabled, ages 2-92. We will be breaking ground on an all-abilities park with lots of resources that the county couldn't provide. We also built a community park with a picnic shelter and saw the need for many more benches than called for in the county plan. The county should be proactive in its approach to parks. The ADA regulations don't really provide those opportunities.
- **Helen Torres:** Has the commission or county ever considered some communal housing, where people who can't afford retirement centers are partnered with students, such as those attending WSU Vancouver and Clark College? I read an article about a Scandinavian country where there was a communal housing program that provided free college to kids who help take care of seniors in lieu of paying rent. I believe the colleges are a rich area to explore. We can help mentor college kids with single or no parents who are trying to make it. I'm not sure if this was raised before. **Commission on Aging members** noted that we touched on shared housing a few years ago when we studied housing, but didn't focus on it exactly as the commenter described. This is something we could think about in the future.
- **Beth Paul:** I work for the In It Together RN program. One thing we have been using with clients is the online food delivery. One of the bigger challenges with this is the technology barrier. I would recommend encouraging companies to make their technology more age-friendly. Also, in England, they are using dementia-friendly design, i.e. red toilet seats that are really easy to see. This is something that could be considered.
- **Joan Caley:** Cited research and experience that indicates that seniors with the lowest socioeconomic status have the largest isolation issue. Loneliness is as deadly as smoking 15 cigarettes per day. Transportation challenges compound the loneliness issues.
- **Jeff Paul:** Thank you for all you have done. It is a privilege to see how progressive WA, Vancouver and Clark County are with older adults. I noticed that the dog in one of the annual report pictures is pulling on its leash. Maybe dog trainers can help with pet behavior training, because it can be dangerous to have pets that pull and misbehave around people with mobility challenges.
- **Bill Baumann:** The Human Services Council (HSC) received a grant to look at providing a shuttle service for north county seniors. We are trying to provide a service to get seniors to Battle Ground. We are in planning stages right now. **Chair Quiring** recommended that the HSC talk to the Town of Yaoclt to help let people in the area know about the program. **Commission on Aging members** added that as the Commission on Aging discussed and heard about food insecurity and transportation, they learned that there are options in the area to donate fresh produce, i.e. from fruit trees in your yard. Clark County Food Bank, for instance, will send people to pick extra fruit from your trees and they will distribute the extra fresh produce. Organizations such as the Veterans Assistance Center would also accept produce donations.

4. **New Business, Updates and Announcements:** April 9, 2020 Healthy Communities Summit

5. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

The Clark County Commission on Aging provides leadership and creates community engagement in addressing the needs and opportunities of aging.

DRAFT