

Saint Paul ACOA Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2020
9:00 am - 10:30 am
Skype Meeting

- Meeting called to order at 9:00.
- Welcome and Introductions (Co-chair Sumera)
- Updates from the City (Alex)
 - City newsletter new frequency to switch to M-W-F
 - 5/27 Mayor Melvin Carter Signs Executive Orders Requiring Facemasks in Licensed Businesses and City Controlled Facilities and Business License Measures Supporting Restaurants and Bars Starting June 1st for Stay Safe MN Phase II
 - Neighbors Helping Neighbors update.
 - Meetings to continue virtually.
 - HREEO Committees Strategic Planning Sessions happening in July – August.
- Guest Speaker, Christina Kendrick, MPLS ACOA liaison
 - MPLS ACOA focused on:
 - Concerns about elders;
 - Diverse city, refocusing on community cultures;
 - Food insecurity, cultural appropriate food.
 - Zoning policy discussion in Minneapolis.
 - Accessory dwelling units allowed regardless of zoning – granny flats in home services, rental options, older adults rent out home for extra income for limited incomes; college students renting from an older adult; support system; MPLS Comp Plan zoning lifts restrictions on cohabitation, promotes age friendly, housing models.
 - Dementia friendly efforts.
 - Effort in North MPLS on addressing dementia, Alzheimer’s and its impacts on communities of color. There is also an effort in MPLS to improve dementia friendly transportation action plan, not called out specifically. Educating community, efforts on educating MPD on how to address neighborhoods with dementia communities.
 - Transportation action plan is big as comp plan, guide to MPLS for implementing practices like lowering speed limits, right of ways, curb cut outs, etc. from transportation guides neighborhood planning. Mission zero, traffic deaths and accidents effect older adults more, Vision Zero effort to zero deaths and accidents for aging population. Mpls very youth centric
 - MPLS revising action plan.
 - What we have accomplished last 3 years, and what we haven’t accomplished in the last 3 years. Age Friendly community designation, first MN city to have that designation. Hasn’t meant new resources. Focus on issues of aging in cultural communities and immigrant

communities, engagement work, what aging in MPLS looks like for communities of color.

- How do you recruit new members?
 - Community 17 seats, 13 ward based, has to go through city council approval, 4 members at large (mayor at large). Representation across the city but lacking diversity. Challenge for council members to provide members. Have to be + 50 years. Outreach through community media, cultural media. Organizations have been good partners. Assist with language needs.
- Does the city provide recommendations for your scope of work or is that coming from membership? How is your focus and strategy determined to have importance to city and members?
 - City rarely interjects any questions or concerns, city departments typically reach out to liaison, let committee provide recommendations. Committee will construction recommendation without prompting from council/city. Community doesn't feel tokenized, respected by city. Not had much support to address issues that disproportionately effect older adults.
- How has COVID changed MPLS ACOA?
 - City suspended all boards, just allowed in June to start meeting. Committee not had an opportunity to strategize. Have been in contact with thoughts and ideas that serve seniors. STP has block nurse programs. Organizations reached out to help older adults, biggest gaps helping older immigrant communities. Trying to make sure they have access to basic needs, PPE, and culturally appropriate food. Reaching out partners like AAPR and community who can help, food shelves, food delivery. Block nurse building destroyed, combining organizations.
- Saint Paul ACOA Next Steps (Karen)
 - No July meeting
- General Discussion Items from all ACOA members.
 - Anticipated needs for elders after 1 year or vaccine. (Mary)
 - How we need to respond, perceptions of where people want to live, how do we think COVID changes and between now and when a COVID vaccine comes. For example, communities opening and closing if we're going to last like this for a year. How do food issues shift if this is a new normal? Collaborating with CUB, mobility for all, how do we sustain that, will seniors start going back to the grocery store?
 - Social isolation and loneliness will accumulate over time, so it may be expected that it will continue to build over the next year. We may lose some social establishments due to COVID-19, so loneliness/isolation may not have some of the traditional channels available.
 - Discussed block nurse programs.

- Keystone offering virtual connections for seniors. Forced to figure out remote and virtual communications. Extend to individuals in bad weather, tech training, find grant funds for tech equipment and tech support.
- Hospitalization without family.
 - Running into tech space, connectivity skyrocketed.
 - Challenges with regular health checkups, telehealth with tech gaps with elders.
 - Telehealth. Problem, no human touch, diagnoses going up. Fraught with error, vs. a clinician in person. Put in the hospital, left alone in hospital, no family visits. Isolation occurs also in discharge.
- Highlighted recent food drives. Communities coming together via grassroots organizing. Learn and meet needs through grassroots efforts.
 - More avenues to get good stories out, food drives, fire mask drives. Embracing of older adults.
- What is the role of an Advisory Committee on Aging for the city in a time like this amidst the scope of needs and opportunities?
- Recruitment/application updates (Alex)
 - Still working with the Mayor's Office to recruit and appoint new ACOA members.
- HREEO Director Update (Val Jensen)
 - The Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities had the MN Secretary of State's Office come to talk about absentee ballot process for voting. ACOA may consider inviting SOS to future meetings, city is also considering hosting a committee-wide absentee voting townhall.
- June ACOA meeting concluded at 10:30. No July meeting.