

**Saint Paul ACOA Meeting Minutes**  
**October 21, 2020**  
**9:00 am - 10:30 am**  
**Skype Meeting**

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Attendees( Paige Sumera, Chuck Lentz, David Cheesebrow, Teisha Magee, Tom Eckstein, Su Yeager, Dawn Selle, Julia Wolf, Val Jensen, Metric Giles, Elizabeth Webster, Margaret Heinrichs)
- City Updates (Val Jensen)
  - First year of strategic planning is happening and much of the work is around communications. And realignment.
  - City is launching a new website to improve communications, access and branding.
  - Staff continue to work remotely
  - Unsheltered Homeless: City is seeing a significant increase from previous years and looking at community options. The old Bethesda Campus will be converted into a shelter with supported services available.
- Food and Supplies to Elders Discussion:
  - Barriers to accessing food resources discussed: Some elders are reluctant to use resources because they don't want to be seen at the neighborhood food shelves where people might recognize them. Other barriers discussed were transportation and weight of supplies, the foods provided aren't what they like, lines and knowing what is available.
  - Community drive thru events and home delivery is helpful. Unclear what different food shelves are doing to get items out to elders and home bound individuals? Are all seniors being reached by these models and do they know of the resources?
  - Possible future Follow-up: Invite county Food Security and Basic Needs COVID Response Member or Second Harvest to discuss how the various programs are delivering food.
- Communications and Resources to Elders Discussion:
  - Isolation remains a large concern voiced by many in the group. Different ideas that were discussed included a phone call from volunteers or programs to check-in on Elders to see if they need anything and follow-up with supports, City wide buddy system or mentorship that would encourage people to reach out to each other over the phone. Cards of encouragement written by volunteers to include in food delivery packages. Hallie Q is collecting them to include in their turkey baskets in November
  - Getting resources to Elders was a priority and concern voiced by many members. We discussed the benefits of print materials and phone calls and the complexity of continuously changing resources. There is a need for a central location of resources that elders can access or those that are assisting them can turn to. A possible Elder Page on the city wide website that is user friendly could provide essential resources for seniors.

Print materials could be used to direct people to the website with a phone number to a resource specialist as an alternative.

- Future Follow-up: The majority of individuals present felt this would be a useful project for the group and would like to proceed with action steps.
- Next Steps:
  - Locate a city employee to come to our next meeting to discuss an Elder Information Page on the new city website. (Paige and Alex will reach out to staff to invite to meeting and ask for how the group can prepare ahead of time (Homework)
  - Homework: Review the template the county has developed as an outline for an Elder Resource Webpage. Determine resource categories. What does user friendly mean for Elders. (Homework items will be mailed out to the group by Paige)