

**Saint Paul Advisory Committee on Aging (ACOA)
September 14, 2016
Linwood Community and Recreation Center**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Nancy Utoft, Joe Pandal, Marilynn Taylor, Kathy Kelso, Carol Neumann, Janet Golden, Karen Vento, Ana Vang – Staff Liaison

Absent: Harriet Mednick, Edie Meissner, Joann Ellis, Annette Hansen

Meeting called to order at 9:06 am

August meeting minutes

No changes to the August meeting minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously as written.

Recruitment report: Board Repair event

Other organizations attending the event thought the Board Repair recruitment event was a disappointment. There were more vendors than attendees. The only recruitment effort that has worked for ACOA, is having an aging focused article in the Highland Villager. ACOA should try getting articles in papers/fliers in districts other than Highland and Macalester-Groveland (the area covered by the Highland Villager). Filling the remaining vacant committee seats will be a priority for 2017.

Update from Kathy on the District Council Executive Directors meeting

Kathy attended the District Council Executive Directors monthly meeting on September 8. Only 7 of 17 district councils were represented and not all were directors of councils. Some were outreach/communication staff.

Kathy summarized ACOA's activities related to the city's comprehensive plan (gathering current and trending practices, discussions with topic experts, to be shared with planners via a report), and how the District Councils might engage in this discussion to promote ageing in community.

The questions prepared by ACOA members were not sent on to the directors so they weren't aware of the context or Kathy's purpose for meeting with them. She read the questions to gather input from the directors about aging issues or concerns in their districts. Some responses included:

- One ED commented that older adults in their area are leaving, moving to the suburbs and that they do not know how to stop the migration of older adults leaving Saint Paul.
- Houses are being bought and rehabbed around the city, and many are out of affordable range for older adults on fixed incomes.
- Some ED's expressed interest in learning more about aging in community, and specifically aging in their districts.

Kathy will follow-up with a few directors separately and with ACOA members who wish to join her.

Update from Marilynn on her meetings with the West Seventh District Council

Marilynn met with the West Seventh District Council (District 9) to present data about aging demographic in that district. She had 10 minutes on the agenda, but ended up conversing with them for 30

minutes. Her presentation included information to spur engagement and thinking about aging – for example, District 9 has the greatest percent of residents aged 65+. Marilyn was gratified by the interest and responsiveness of younger members of the district council; their response affirmed the anecdotal belief that millennial and older adults have many shared preferences (housing choice, smaller living spaces, walkability, affordability, transportation, etc.). Marilyn suggested that perhaps ACOA should lean more on the common ground between millennials and older adults. This common ground is more proof of the concept of aging in community.

Concerns about consistency and standards applied to senior housing have been raised. Particularly, members of the committee are disturbed by the easily applied labels of “senior” to housing that fails on many levels to meet the physical, psychological and social needs of older adults.

Updates from the Housing and Health workgroups

- Housing
 - Each subcommittee member will bring 3-4 recommendations for the report which may be prioritized to 2-3 total for the executive summary. (As will all the recommendations, we assume.)
 - Next meeting is to review those ideas, prioritize, and move forward the preferred recommendations to full ACOA Committee.
 - A discussion/premise that requires more focus: Housing and services should be tied together. Without services, you cannot have healthy senior housing. Without housing, you won’t have the concentration of seniors that will use the services that could be available.
 - Senior housing is complicated. There are a variety of care levels needed across age groups. See below for a graphic representation.

Clinical and custodial need	65-75	76-85	95+
Low need			
Moderate need			
High need			

- Transportation
 - Transportation with regards to aging does not only include transportation to doctor’s appointments, but also social events.
 - Janet and Karen will connect and discuss the circulator idea, and work on transportation recommendations for the Comp Plan.
- Health
 - In the aging in community context, health refers to community health, not individual health.
 - Currently there are some significant staffing changes happening at Ramsey County, particularly with regards to aging, which will make it more challenging to get their input in the recommendations on collaboration between county and city re: healthy aging in the City of St. Paul specifically.
 - There will be a new Healthy Aging Planning Specialist; interviews are set to begin soon. Of significance: Nancy Utoft will be on the interviewing panel for this position. She will likely learn more about the position, the intent and direction of the county about aging.
 - The health group will continue to review current literature on collaborative efforts between county and cities to address health policies. Please see the resources already in the drop box.
 - The health group will work to narrow their scope before the next meeting.

- Habitat for Humanity has a program called A Brush with Kindness, which helps homeowners struggling to maintain their home. They are working on a grant with the Citizens League they are planning to call “Aging in Place.” Kathy will try to reach Pat Lund, director of that program to learn more.

Review process/timeline for getting a report to planners

In June, Lucy Thompson met with ACOA and described the timeline and process the planners had set – as of that point in time – to write and complete the Comprehensive Plan. As we understand it, the planners are in the first phase of collecting information and resources through the rest of this year. They will begin to draft the chapters of the plan during the winter. They may have a draft completed by next summer/early fall. It is our intention to influence and hopefully provide specific information we would like included in the 10 Year Comprehensive Plan.

Our timeline:

- Small work groups finish gathering resources/trends and current idea/practices by the end of October.
- Draft of report and recommendations to begin in November.
- Final draft completed and reviewed in December at ACOA meeting.
- Report and recommendations distributed to Lucy Thompson with PED, Nancy Homans with Mayors Office, City Council Members and County leadership in January, 2017.

Review Handouts

- Draft ACOA informational “brochure” written by Joe and Kathy were distributed to members for review. Any edits should be sent to Ana Vang.

Bob Anderson from Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging (MAAA)

Bob Anderson from MAAA joined the meeting to discuss his work on transportation for an aging demographic, and what he sees as major policy and political challenges.

Transportation is a significantly diverse and seemingly intractable problem. MAAA has attempted to address this issue for several years with many nonprofit organizations and has invested up to \$500,000 dollars to address the gaps across the entire Metro Area.

Over the past few years nonprofit organizations have found it necessary to discontinue transportation programs, and most recently were Prism, Red Cross, WeCab. To date, there is no interest or ability for organizations or programs to enter this market to fill the need. There are few transportation providers now in the metro area but they will not be able to meet the demand due to limited capacity to expand.

There are three transportation problems that Bob discussed at length (please see hand-out):

- Volunteer drivers for organizations
 - Current city efforts (busses, light rail, etc.) will not and do not meet all the transportation needs of aging residents. Organizations and volunteers will be needed to fill the gap.
 - In many cases, organizations don’t know the current rules surrounding volunteer drivers, and therefore aren’t communicating accurate information to volunteers regarding potential liability (i.e. what happens if a volunteer driver with a senior passenger gets into an accident – whose insurance covers what costs?).
 - MAAA wants to make sure both organizations and volunteers are fully informed.

- Anecdotally, volunteer drivers who contact their insurance to inform them of their activities have experienced higher insurance premiums, canceled insurance policies, or are steered towards commercial insurance.
- Drivers and organizations need to realize they are working with a population where a minor incident could end up being very expensive.
- MAAA hired a lobbyist and eventually had a meeting with one of the Assistant Commissioners of the Department of Commerce. They acknowledged that their volunteer driver brochure and was very out of date. MAAA requested an up to date volunteer driver brochure be created.
- Categorization of transportation programs
 - Ordinances defining and regulating types of transportation services vary across the metro area which has been problematic for those trying to develop metro-wide programming.
 - Example: The Independent Transportation Network, a non-profit that promotes lifelong mobility for seniors, was told by the City of Minneapolis that they could not charge a fair for a ride whose origin and destination was Minneapolis, otherwise they would have to register drivers as a taxi cab. However, they could charge a fair for a ride whose destination was Minneapolis, but whose origin was another city. ITN provided rides at no cost while trying to get an ordinance amended in Minneapolis. It closed its doors in January 2016.
- No-load mile reimbursement.
 - No-load miles are often not able to be fully reimbursed by organizations to volunteers.
 - This is a bigger issue in greater Minnesota than it is in the metro area.
 - Medical assistance will not reimburse no-load miles.
 - Senator Franken put together a proposal to reimburse no load miles, but it did not move forward.

Deliberation on meeting with former Metro AAA Grant Advisory Team(2012-2014)

In attempting to recruit as many voices in support of aging in community approach and for our recommendations, ACOA executive committee discussed convening a meeting of the Grant Advisory Committee members for their opinions and input. Given the constraint on our time, it was decided to do a survey rather than an in person meeting. Ana will create a preliminary survey for our review.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25

The next ACOA meeting will take place October 12, from 9-11 am, at the Linwood Community and Recreation Center.