

**Aging Readiness Task Force
Meeting #1 - May 20, 2010
Clark County Public Service Center
Hearing Room #680
2:00 – 4:00 P.M.**

Member Attendees: Erica Dahmen, Jesse Dunn, Dexter Garey, Steve Goff, Gail Haskett, Bob Holdridge, Roger Jarvis, Erica Kelley, Colleen Kuhn, Todd Martin, Kathy McLaughlin, Ed Rankin, Lisa Rasmussen, Marti Sanders, Erik Schott, Mike Teefy, C.T. Thurston, Robert Watkins, Karin Woll

Members Absent: Jada Rupley, Jim Wilson, Jan Wyninger

Agency Representatives: Dave Kelly (SWAAD), Klaus Micheel (SWAAD), Jim Quintana (CTRAN)

Staff: Commissioner Marc Boldt, Bill Barron, Oliver Orjiako, Colete Anderson, Jacqui Kamp, Mary Beth O'Donnell

Commissioner Marc Boldt called the meeting to order at 2:03 P.M. and thanked everyone for coming. Introductions were made by each task force member, along with their affiliations and interests in the community.

Bill Barron, Clark County Administrator, told the group that the concept and vision for this task force was originated by Commissioner Boldt who saw the need for the county to prepare for the aging population. Mr. Barron will be available to assist staff and the task force as the project moves forward.

Commissioner Boldt attended a forum on aging at WSU last year. Afterwards he felt it was evident the County was not doing any planning of substance for our aging population. This committee was carefully selected from over 70 applications and he stressed that it is the most important one that Clark County will ever do in this community. It will change the county for a long time. This plan will be created by the group, not the Commissioners. The Commissioners will attempt to implement the plan given to them.

Oliver Orjiako, Director of Community Planning, reviewed the agenda and the packets handed out to all members. Oliver explained the purpose of the task force and its' mission - to assess the County's capacity to serve as a home to the growing number of older people, concentrating on areas of affordable housing, transportation, health care, supportive services and civic/social engagement to support independent living. The end goal is to develop recommendations by July 2011 that will serve as a blueprint for action.

Colete Anderson, Planner, reviewed the project timeline. This is a community-wide, important event. There will be five community work shops that are topic specific, for example Housing or Health Care. Individuals that work in the specific fields (Vancouver Housing Authority, C-Tran, Public Health) will be enjoined to develop a series of questions used at the work shops. The comments will be drafted into recommendations for task force discussion. By the end of next summer we should have a document ready to take to the Commissioners.

The county website will be very user-friendly and used extensively. It will provide the ability to register for the workshops and so forth. Notebooks provided to task force members include sections for workshop notes, sample action plans and various community questionnaires. The committee should review "Forum on Aging" and the housing sections in each of the other documents for discussion at the June meeting.

Oliver reviewed meeting ground rules and protocol. Meetings will follow Roberts Rules of Order and be open to the general public. All members are encouraged to attend every meeting, or send an alternate if possible, and be prepared in advance for the subject at hand. He asked the group to elect a chair person today if possible.

David Kelly, Executive Director of Southwest Washington Agency on Aging and Disabilities presented a Power Point "Getting Ready for the Aging Boom in Clark County". By 2030, the number of Americans over age 65 will double. Some key points covered issues of concern as people reach retirement age – independency, housing, transportation, health care, nutrition and exercise, safety, workforce development and volunteer opportunities. Mr. Kelly said he will be involved throughout the process to help move it forward.

Jesse Dunn, Executive Director of The Arc of Clark County, was nominated for chairperson by Robert Watkins. The nomination was seconded and voted unanimously in favor by the committee. Jesse Dunn will act as task force chair.

There was no public comment.

Some comments from task force members included:

- A suggestion to Google "neighborhood electric vehicles". These vehicles are designed for use on neighborhood streets as a safe, alternate means of transportation. They are a registered and Federally-defined vehicle.
- Wealthy elders have the same problems as those with less means so we need to make sure we develop livable communities with them in mind as well.
- The value of senior volunteers in the community amounts to \$2.1 million for 100,000 hours. They have much to contribute to society.
- A suggestion for discussion at future meetings was the opportunity for emerging, assisted technology that expands capacity for individuals to make a contribution in the community.
- There is a lack of recognition among elected officials about the aging population and what we need to do about it. The senior population isn't where private corporate funders want to put their dollars. This project will help bring the subject to the forefront and raise awareness at the local and state level.

Bill Barron told the group that the County Board of Commissioners typically uses this kind of forum to develop public policy. The committee will be the voice of the community to the Commissioners and offer inspired and important information used in the policy-making environment. Mr. Barron thanked the members for their willingness to serve the community and assured them their input would be widely used.

The next meeting will be June 17 and will focus on housing issues. The first workshop will be September 16 at Clark College.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 P.M.