



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

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, January 15, 2019
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Marian Anderson, Ali Caley, Chuck Green, Amy Gross, Marjorie Ledell, Linda O’Leary, Donna Roberge, Larry Smith

Councilors Present: Eileen Quiring, Temple Lentz, Julie Olson, John Blom

Absent: None

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Linda O’Leary opened the meeting.

Introductions

The Clark County Council and Commission on Aging members introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously with one additional agenda item regarding a grant letter of support request.

Grant Letter of Support

David Hudson, Program Manager, Healthy Communities Programs at Clark County, provided an overview about a grant application his team is working on. Details on potential projects are still being developed, but the idea is to increase healthy food options in the county and to support complete streets initiatives to make municipalities safer and promote active transportation. The Commission on Aging members voted unanimously to submit a letter of support for the grant application.

Approval of November 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The November 13, 2018 meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the commission.

2. Presentation: Clark County Commission on Aging 2018 Annual Report

Linda O’Leary, Ali Caley, and Marjorie Ledell presented the Annual Report of the Commission on Aging including the commission’s 2018 focus on transportation, and their major findings and recommendations for policy.

Discussion focused on the following topics:



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Rural areas

There was interest in seeing the promotion of Uber and Lyft types of transportation options, especially in areas where public transit does not go.

Pedestrian and bicycle-supportive development

There was interest in seeing the statistics on the number of seniors using bicycles. The advent of electric bicycles and tricycles has made these options more age-friendly, but walking is much more common in the US than bicycling for older adults.

Improving existing neighborhood connections to services/destinations

There was discussion about how building connections in existing neighborhoods, such as with easements, would work. One suggestion was that the council could decide on areas for improvements, and a project queue could be developed based on that direction. This topic was addressed in a presentation to the commission about the City of Tigard and their walking initiative. While a different size than the county, Tigard's city council created a small fund for small connection projects and authorized the public works department to use that fund. There are also a number of unbuilt easements and dedications that exist in the county that might be of use. The county would need to figure out what they could offer in exchange for an easement, such as a new fence, but this could be an inexpensive way to make some improvements.

Ensure new development is pedestrian friendly and accessible

Some councilors have had a cursory conversation about new growth in the county and how to further develop connections, trails, etc.

Pedestrian paths in new development could be encouraged to better connect homes with larger streets, have more direct access to C-TRAN bus stops, and better connect to a trail/pedestrian network. The City of Ridgefield, for instance, has a mandate in their developer's agreements for interconnection to the trail system. New development has to connect into it.

Councilor Blom is on the C-TRAN board and heard a recent presentation on transit-oriented development that is being planned for the Fisher's Landing Transit Center. The Commission on Aging was encouraged to follow the project, look at what C-TRAN is planning, and making sure their voice is heard.

Sidewalks

While new developments have sidewalks on both sides of the street, there are gaps created for a variety of reasons such as older development built before sidewalks were required next to new development. Beyond filling sidewalk gaps, any pedestrian path needs to be well-lit so that people feel safe using them. One commission member noted how her neighborhood has homes largely built in the 1950s and 1960s and there are no sidewalks. Even though filling sidewalk gaps would be slow, it would be something.

Making sure there is a mix of housing, transportation, and services accessible to those who do not drive

There is not much mixing of different types of development in the county's urban areas. We mostly have commercial in one area, residential in another, etc. Commission members noted a few examples of where there is more of a mix of housing near commercial amenities and transit lines including Erickson Farms, Columbia Tech Center, and the Heights project.

Disrupting influence of technology

Uber, Lyft, Tesla, etc. are here and are continuing to grow. The picture on page 27 in the annual report of an automated, electric mini-bus is something we may see more of. It is important to provide more mobility options at a more affordable rate and new technology may be able to help with this.

Electric charging stations are popping up throughout the county and there was some discussion if they are something that can be built with new development instead of needing to retrofit later.

The group discussed the idea of a Go Clark County website/application, similar to the Go Denver application. Partnerships with other jurisdictions will be key, and the service would need to be designed and built to provide access throughout the county, as there are still areas without internet or cell phone reception.

The group also noted the shift in how we shop with goods being delivered instead of going out to do all our shopping and that there is a lot to think about in regards to how technology and our behaviors are changing in ways related to transportation and in ways that could serve seniors.

Coordination with cities in the county

The commission members plan to visit each of the city councils this spring to share their annual report, findings and recommendations.

3. Public Comment

- Julie Williams, owner of Home Instead Senior Care. This is one of the most important topics. Findings from the 2012 World Economic Forum in Davos produced a global aging report. Their findings were somewhat alarming in that the communities that don't address aging will most likely fail. There are a number of reasons that they can fail, some examples include in 2017 our social security benefits on average were \$1,316 per month. Currently alzheimer's care is \$10,000 per month. There is a big difference and there are very few facilities in Vancouver that take Medicaid clients and they are becoming fewer. The cost of care and reality, even if well-to-do, this will wipe you out. Right now children need to quit work to take care of their parents, pay for parents' care, so their wealth is dwindling. Buildings, offices, companies, have to manage time off for families. The stress is up for those caretakers and they are so pained that they can't be the one caring or able to pay for a service. It's heartbreaking, I hope that when you think about aging in Clark County, sidewalks are great and planning our community that we take into account all of those things, and we also need to think about the much bigger picture of cost and affordability. I just want to express the importance of this. This is not just another committee meeting. This is something we need to take seriously. The report was called promise and peril. There is a lot of opportunity in it, but there are pitfalls if we don't do something now.
- Muiz Animashaup, I take the C-TRAN bus, and the driver is reckless sometimes and they do not always fix the timetables and you have to wait for 20+ minutes.
- Jeff Polk, with In It Together Rn. We provide nurse delegation services here in Clark County. Delegation is oversight for adult family homes. I think Julie brought out a really good, important issue: finance. Money is a big issue for our aging community, a lot of them have not planned to protect their assets and so forth, so Medicaid is a

resource that kicks in. If you have been out on Padden Parkway/205, there is a very large building being built that will be an assisted living facility. Any assisted living facility is private pay. 50-60% of adult family homes provide Medicaid for those with lower resources. Clark County is only second to King County in the state, elsewhere in the state delegation is provided by individual nurses. If you don't know much about adult family homes, they save a lot of money and resources. The large facilities serve some, but the smaller adult family homes is something to think about to provide other options. Remember, not every person fits that one specific situation. It's important to think about different options for individuals.

- Beth Paul, also from In It Together. I just wanted to bring up one benefit that adult family homes have in relationship to transportation. Often there are couples where one needs care and the other does not. Small facilities provide an option, when we talk about mixed uses, where you can find a home for one partner near to where the other partner lives. That is another reason to become familiar with the services adult family homes are providing in Vancouver.

4. New Business, Updates and Announcements:

The Commission on Aging plans to focus on Healthy Communities in 2019 with the first presentation scheduled for March 19, 2019.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

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