

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Marjorie Ledell, Ali Caley, Chuck Frayer, Pat Janik, Herb Maxey, Bill Ritchie, Donna Roberge, Marian Anderson, Linda O'Leary

Members Absent:

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Marjorie Ledell asked for a motion to approve the agenda. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved. Marjorie asked for a motion to approve minutes from September 20. It was moved, seconded - one abstained and unanimously approved.

- Chair Report – Marjorie mentioned that Mike Selig was in the audience and is a manager from the Community Development Department.
- Vice Chair Report – Ali noted that the Supportive Services Committee is continuing to move forward with the 2017 speaker series. We are meeting on November 4 at 1:30 p.m. with our community partners: AAA, Public Health, VHA and Community Services.
- Communication Report – Linda stated they had a meeting on October 7. The committee continues to plan the February 9 Housing Summit at the Red Cross Building. Dr. Elliot Eisenberg has agreed to be our keynote speaker. We are excited about having a panel as well. The committee is finishing all of the details.
- Housing Committee Update – Chuck noted that the committee met last week and is working diligently on the summit. One of the major pieces of summit is going to be accessibility. We are looking at a program that is called visit-ability for housing. In addition we are looking at what is needed for assessable housing: access, sidewalks, and streets those kinds of things. We are also looking into a number of grants, tax credits, those kinds of things if you are remodeling a home.
- Area Aging and Disabilities Report – Pat passed out highlights of their last meeting. On the back are tentative legislative priorities they will be adopting at their senior fall conference October 26 and 27. We might want to consider attending senior lobby day in Olympia which is tentatively set for February 23, 2017.

2. Presentation – *Public Housing Options for Seniors Wanting to Age-In-Place.*

Marjorie explained that tonight we have our ninth speaker in our housing series where the primary focus has been on housing for people 60 and over. Each speaker has addressed a different aspect including factors to consider when moving, financing options, and multiple dimensions of what it means to age in place. After our speaker, members of the COA will ask questions and then we will invite the audience to ask questions. Your questions are important to us as they influence the policy recommendations we will be making to the Clark County Councilors at the January joint meeting. In February Clark County is hosting a housing summit where our report will be discussed with policy makers and major players in the housing industry. Tonight our Speaker is Roy Johnson, Executive Director Vancouver Housing Authority.

Senior Housing Presentation:

- Type of Housing Owned/Managed by VHA
- Funding for Development then
- Funding for Development now
- Trends in SW Washington
- Challenges for Creating Additional Housing for seniors
- VHA Response to Need

Questions

- Ali – On the wait list form describe what regularly purged means? Annually we go thru the list to make sure the people on the list are still interested.
- Linda – You mentioned coordinating with the home health providers is really key, have you made any advances in that department? We have worked with people to get those that are interested signed up for those kinds of programs.
- Marjorie – You mentioned the Bring Vancouver Home Levy, how specifically would it help if that were to pass? It's a new source of funding, that we don't presently have.
- Chuck – In federal funded housing, that 95% approximately is not designed to be assessable, would you agree with that? Of course we take that into consideration with newer developments, but the older developments there only certain units that are adaptable.
- Bill – In light of things like the McCleary decision with schools and money for schools, we also need funds for mental health, homelessness, etc. There is only so much to go around, on a state level. How do you see all of those things coming together? We are all concerned with what might happen with future funding for the trust fund because the McCleary decision will trump a lot of things. We just wait and see.
- Donna – What is the boundary for the Vancouver Housing Authority? I see Camas and Battle Ground, do you actually represent the entire county? The Housing Authority is the City of Vancouver Housing Authority, but there are longstanding agreements that allow VHA to work within other jurisdictions. VHA has agreements with Camas and Battle Ground.
- Herb – How are you going to increase the number of senior housing in Clark County? It is a slow part we play creating new units from beginning to end takes about two years. Or look at existing units to designate for senior housing.
- Marian – Isabella Court, you mentioned VHA partnered in that building, can you elaborate on that? We provided some section 8 vouchers for it.
- Pat - The funding sources you mentioned, did they expire and were not refunded? Is there any chance of getting other development monies? Not looking likely that those would come back in.

Public Comments/Questions:

- Has the number of homeless vastly increased in the last five years? Why is it that landlords can increase the rents without a limit? I think that would be a yes that would be a good question for the council for the homeless. In the state of Washington it is not legal to have rent control.
- Is the wait list for housing a public thing? I don't know the breakdown is for a development that is not ours. I would suggest that at one of your tenant meetings you invite someone from property management and someone from the office on aging to be present and be that face for you.
- How many beds for emergency situations do we have for women? It's very low, maybe a dozen in shelters.

- Are you only allowed to be on one wait list? Can you use a section voucher from Portland? Yes you can apply to any open list. And yes you can bring a voucher from the issuing agency as long as you get written permission from them.
- Is there now or has there ever been any kind of tax credits for private landlords to encourage modifications for accessibility? I'm not familiar with any of them.
- What is the prospect for future funding, in the next 15 or 20 years when the crisis really hits? There is a bill that is being introduced to increase the amount of tax credits that come into a state for us to be able to compete for. And then the direction has been to come up with local source of funding. There is the Washington state access fund, funding available for home modifications for accessibility.

3. New Business

- **Marjorie** – Policy 3.0 Volunteer Hours – Based on last month's conversation, I need a motion to rescind 3.0 Volunteer Hours from our policy and procedures. Moved by Marian to rescind, seconded and unanimously approved.

4. Announcements

- **Marjorie** – At our November 15 meeting, Aaron Murphy will be speaking about the future of housing and how it will change from how we live now. Mr. Murphy is an Architect, real estate entrepreneur and an aging in place specialist.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm

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