



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

Meeting Notes Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Members Present: Gary Beagle, Chuck Frayer, Patti Gray, Bob Holdridge, Kathy McLaughlin, Lisa Rasmussen, Randy Scheel, Kiersten Ware, Karin Woll

Staff: Colete Anderson, Chris Cook, Jacqui Kamp, Oliver Orjiako, Mary Beth O'Donnell

Welcome and Call to Order

- A motion to approve the meeting agenda was seconded and unanimously approved. A motion to approve the meeting notes from January 21st as submitted was seconded and unanimously approved.
- Chair Report:
 - Structure of the commission is changing somewhat from a committee structure to a work project structure, to be discussed at the next work session March 18. The new work plan contains four key areas: Executive Committee, Advocacy, Awareness and Education, and Project Committees. The Advocacy piece involves partnering with groups such as AADSWA. Gary and Colete met with David Kelly and Klaus Micheel from that agency to discuss partnering with them on common legislative goals and objectives. Gary and Chuck will attend Senior Lobby Day in Olympia Thursday, 02/20 and meet with Clark County representatives regarding issues of importance to the Commission and the community.
 - Karin Woll and Gary met with Commissioner Mielke, and Gary met with Commissioner Stuart last week. Both are appreciative of the work the commission is doing. A meeting with Commissioner Madore will be arranged in the near future. Commissioners are looking forward to the joint meeting later this year where the annual report will be presented.
 - Commission acknowledges the following individuals and groups for helping implement the strategies of the Aging Readiness Plan:
 - Klaus Micheel of AADSWA; Let's Share Housing, Michelle and Zoe; condolences for the passing of Marina Nazaretyan, in charge of DSHS/AADSWA information and activities.
 - Telehealth Conference will be topic of upcoming meeting in April. Will discuss how to proceed with that program.
 - Speakers Bureau is available for events. Future events are 50+ Expo, UGD group at Home and Garden show, Recycled Arts Fair and Board retreat. Gary will speak to the Clackamas County Advisory Committee about how the aging readiness plan was developed in Clark County.

- Asked by Leadership Clark County to speak to the students on April 11th about the Commission on Aging and intergenerational aspects of the plan. Karin, Lisa and Gary will attend.
- Let's Share Housing, Clark County joint kick-off event in March.
- City Club of Portland will host a forum Wednesday, February 26 to address "How Age Friendly are Portland's Housing Options?". See their website for details.
- UGD group still working to have handicap accessible home built for disabled veteran by Veteran's Day.

Let's Share Housing, Michele Fiasca and Zoe Morrison

- Series of four workshops will be held to educate public on shared housing; first one Tuesday, March 11, "What is Shared Housing and Is It For Me". Agenda includes interactive group participation, brainstorming, and professionals presenting their areas of expertise. Following workshops are Thursday, March 13, 20 and 27th, 5:30–7:30 PM, all held at Ft. Vancouver Library on C Street. Full details on their website.
- New website is being created to be out before March 1st; will include a chat component to enable communication between people; requires criminal history background check before being allowed to publish a profile or advertise; featured homes and seekers will be listed, as well as pages featuring the trusted partners and consultants that are providing assistance at the workshops.
- Will serve people of all ages but majority are in 50–65 year old range. The service is for people who are able to live independently, not for the frail, elderly person who needs any kind of care.
- Attendance at the workshops is recommended but not required to use the service. For a fee, the workshop materials will be made available.

Presentation: Warren Neth, Representative for Food Systems Council of Clark County (FSC)

- Warren asked for the support of the Commission in their proposal to promote agricultural food production in Clark County. Development of proposal took the committee 1-1/2 years to complete. It is designed to meet the Comprehensive Plan framework policy 3.1.3 which asks to identify agricultural land on parcels currently used or designated for agricultural use and provide these parcels with protection.
- They evaluated characteristics of land in the county and created a map to show location of land that is suitable for agricultural production. Five indicators: good to moderate soils, slope, size, zoning, and tax status.
- The FSC suggests that the BOCC consider voluntary measures to protect and maintain agriculturally productive lands during the current update of the Comprehensive Plan. The FSC is ready to help the County assess, discuss and develop tools appropriate for the community and how best to respect property rights while offering land owners alternatives and choices in setting aside land for agricultural purposes.
- Three issues related with the ARP vision and strategies: healthful foods, complete neighborhoods and open spaces.
- **Question:** Has the council talked with local convenience stores about carrying fresh produce?

- Warren worked with Clark County Healthy Retail Store Program a few years ago and got produce in a small mini mart on St. Johns. A number of stores have shown an interest through that program. The issue is developing more mechanisms within the agricultural community to get food to the small markets. There are other groups working on developing that. We need a better aggregation service for small to mid-size farmers. Right now the majority of produce comes from the world market, not locally grown and some of the nutritional value is lost during shipment.
- Karin added that the county health department is working to get fresh fruits and produce into mini marts. At last count there were 7 locations in the 4th plain corridor. It's important to maintain the farm lands in the county to educate the children about where vegetables come from.
- Bob: In the plan there are three agenda items relating to food: agriculture, grocery stores and community gardens. There will be people wanting to assist the FSC to make things happen.
- Gary: As a commission, we appreciate and support the efforts of the FSC to help implement the strategies of the ARP.
- Peggy McCarthy, NAMI: There are vacant lots next to their office that she would like to turn into community gardens. There are people coming out of jail that have community service time and they could volunteer there if they could get permission to develop it.
 - Warren replied that FSC doesn't handle community gardens. They focus on commercial agricultural land.
 - Karin said she's learned from the Master Gardener program, in order to be successful, the roots have to be within the community where the garden is located; the garden is worked all year round and the people have to be willing to put the time and effort into it.
- Pat La Croix lives on several acres and was approached by someone asking if they could use a portion of her land for farming. Is that legitimate?
 - Warren: Yes, there are people interested in farming and it only takes ½ – 1 acre of land to produce enough for a farm stand or restaurant. A good website resource: www.yardsharing.org

Open Issues

- March work session, Bob and Colete to present work plan, budget and reorganization. Bob will send a draft copy ahead of time. The objective will be to finalize the plan at the meeting. The Master Plan covers all strategies in the ARP and the assignments. The Advocacy section covers a nine year period.
 - **ACTION:** Review work plan, take notes, write down the steps you will take to address the strategies assigned to you and anyone assisting you, and come prepared to talk about it.
- Budget: Kiersten went over the revised budget comprised of the two budgets approved by the commission.
- Communication update: Desire to hold a forum for positive aging in 2015. Karin and Gary will co-chair event and will continue bringing updates to the commission.

- Gary asked for a vote on letters of appreciation to support individuals or organizations, i.e. Klaus Micheel who has helped with the strategic plan. Lisa motioned to provide a letter of support to Let's Share Housing and the Food System Council. Motion was seconded and approved with one abstention. A motion was entered to send a letter of appreciation to Klaus, seconded and unanimously approved.
- Lisa: Recycled Arts Fair – will join with Arts Commission in a booth; better location this year. Application has been filed and a sponsor is in place. Senior Expo, working on ordering coin purses; there are other prizes to hand out as well.

Public Comment

- Pat La Croix from the Arts Commission: Arts of Clark County met last night and decided they want to paint an old car for the arts fair. They want to bring the car to the festival and use as fund raiser, get people to paint it and or sponsor. Lisa said it would have to be discussed and approved.
- Joe Levesque, citizen, suggests drawing information from around the country about how to address the issue of aging in our community, learn from what has been done elsewhere, copy success and focus on what can be done, not on what can't be done.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:40