



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

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Bill Ritchie, Chuck Frayer, Patti Gray, Bob Holdridge, Lisa Rasmussen,
Karin Woll

Absent: Scott Perlman

Staff: Colete Anderson, Jacqui Kamp

Welcome and Call to Order

- Bill called the meeting to order. Meeting agenda approved, minutes from June meeting were unanimously approved as submitted. There were no general meetings in July or August.
- Chair report:
 - Presented at a Clark College seminar for mature learning. Chuck talked a manager from The Quarry who attended the seminar and she wants him to come and speak. They have a support group outside the Quarry for families that's also looking for guest speakers. Chuck gave them a CoA booklet which was impressive. Chuck mentioned the idea of using electric vehicles for the residents and she was very interested and will follow up. They also own Glenwood Place near the Mall which houses about 600 residents, both independent and assisted living. That would be an ideal environment for EV's. Out of that presentation, more positive things have evolved.
 - Chuck: Reminder of "Safe and healthy streets" workshop on September 29th, also BIA universal green design building courses coming up.
 - Karin: She and Chuck went to an accessible garden tour in Portland last weekend. Amazing to see what people have done creating gardens for people with disabilities. At one location, they met a woman who teaches an accessibility program at PCC and was interested in CoA. It was a great contact. Another location had four homes (11 people) with a community garden in the middle of them. They took pictures for reference.
 - Bill and Chuck are brainstorming on putting together a tour of accessible homes here in Vancouver. A few people in the audience know of some homes that could be included. Karin will get information from them. Chuck's home is a good one to include. Also, could go back to the BIA for more recommendations. Another tour idea would be accessory dwellings, which has been done in Portland.

Presentation: Veronica Marti and Walt Gordon, C-Tran

C-Tran has reinstated a travel training program that originated in 1999. Veronica was hired 1-1/2 years ago to run it. She is a member of the Travel Trainers Association. It is funded in part by the Federal Transit Administration, New Freedoms Funds. Some of the funds go towards programs for seniors 65+ and those with disabilities.

The travel training program is designed to introduce seniors and people with disabilities to public transportation. The service is free of charge, options for one-on-one or group training, customized to fit personal needs, and covers all cities within the county. It provides help with personalized service, familiarization with fixed route buses, and how to navigate with disabilities. Personnel called "travel masters" provide assistance using the bus system, and assist people through their initial fear of riding the bus by accompanying them on the trip. They coordinate travel clubs within the community that take fun trips to farmers markets, concerts, and events which provides social interaction while using public transportation. The program educates riders on bus accessibility features such as ramps and designated seating areas up front. Buses are equipped with audio announcements of stops and locations, with security cameras inside and out recording audio and video activity. Using fixed route buses is a cost savings for riders and C-Tran, at only \$30/month for a pass, or \$0.85/ride and offers more flexibility and spontaneity for trips.

Travel training goals this year:

- increase number of travel masters from 2 to 3
- increase outreach to seniors by visiting more facilities to educate
- develop welcome packages and informational brochures providing directions and listing activities
- implement a passenger orientation plan.

Q & A:

- Pets other than service dogs are allowed but need to be contained in a pet crate.
- Hearing impaired persons can request the driver to help them get to correct stop.
- Siting bus stops: The community can advocate location of stops in relation to the building when new construction is proposed; site building at the front of the lot, not to the back, for easy access from the sidewalk. Karin says CoA is aware of this and Jose did presentation a year ago to DEAB and this point was made. Certain corridors in the county, such as Hwy 99, have design codes in place that stipulate building set-backs that are pedestrian friendly.
- Does C-Tran have mechanism to provide input as it relates to sidewalks and how accessible bus stops are?
 - Customers constantly give suggestions and they use that in communication with the jurisdictions, but it depends on the city itself. Call customer service and make a comment about locations, etc. Continue to tell C-Tran what you want and be persistent. Walt and other staff are willing to be an active part of the CoA discussions on transit.
- How are we looking 10 years from now?

- Operating on a 20 year plan adopted in 2010, with a tax rate of 7/10th of 1%. With 17 years left at this rate, they won't meet the 20 year plan. Every trip on fixed route saves approximately \$31 dollars. Probably in the next 10–12 years they may have to increase rate to 8/10th of 1%. They are dependent on the sales tax system. Door to door service will always be there, but using fixed routes saves everyone money.
- New Freedoms Funds: Lynda David, RTC, is working on a draft Human Services Transportation Plan. It's the guideline used by the State of Washington to identify some acceptable local community projects that improve services for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Walt asked everyone to talk to as many people as possible about reading the plan and giving their input. Go to www.RTC.wa.gov to read it and add your comments. It's your chance to give input to the state and C-Tran. They use this to help decide what they will work on. 5310 funding has strict stipulation on how the money is spent. The plan identifies communities' priorities. Amenities are listed in the plan. Money goes toward services that go beyond what public transportation normally provides.

Open Issues

- By-law changes
 - Election of officers:
 - Nomination of officers to take place once a year in April, election in May, take office June 1st. Motion to approve was seconded and unanimously approved.
 - Executive committee: officers shall be designated as the executive committee assuming the duties as authorized by the Commission and the Commission's by-laws. Motion to approve was seconded and unanimously approved.
 - Commissions projects, once complete, shall be spun-off from Commission responsibility to the developed organization. Motion to approve was seconded and unanimously approved.
 - Commission will not provide operation funds to organizations being developed by the commission, or other start-up programs or services. Motion to approve was seconded and unanimously approved.
- Tabled items
 - Appointment of Treasurer
 - Work Plan
- October meeting topic: Gail Haskett, State Council on Aging, will update on the joint legislative committee meeting.

Public Comment

- SW Washington Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition holding a gate keeper training October 7 at Peace Health 2–3:30 and 4:30–6. Jacqui can put a link up on the CoA Facebook page. It's for volunteers, friends, church members, and family who come into contact with seniors and older adults on a regular basis.
- Lisa announced a free presentation tomorrow from 1–3:00 here in the county Public Service Center given by Dawn from DSHS in Olympia. Information on in-home services

available through the state for caregivers, how people apply for services, what to do in emergency situations, etc.

- Bob announced he has two neighborhood associations he's working with, Northcrest and Lincoln. He's making a manual of activities to pass on to the next person that takes on the project once he's no longer doing it.
- Bob is suggesting to neighborhood associations that they buy 2–3 electric cars (like golf carts) to share with members, that can be used to drive to the bus stop or grocery store. He talked to Safeway in one of the neighborhoods and they agreed to allow them to park in their lot so the cart is available for the return trip.
- Karin announced a documentary film "Time for Money" will be shown on October 5 at 7pm at the Clinton Street Theater in SE Portland. Film by Lenore Eckland, who reconstituted the Portland timebanking program. Portland has about 242 members now and is going well.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.