



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

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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

Board of County Commissioners: David Madore, Tom Mielke, Steve Stuart

Community Partners: Walt Gordon, David Kelly, Klaus Micheel

Staff: Colete Anderson, Jacqui Kamp, Mary Beth O'Donnell

Welcome and Call to Order

- Kiersten opened the meeting at 4:35 and welcomed the Board of County Commissioners. Commission members introduced themselves around the table. CVTV will be recording today's meeting.
- The meeting agenda was approved. Meeting minutes from May 21, 2013 were unanimously approved as submitted.
- Chairperson's report:
 - Kiersten thanked the commission for their work over the past year, expressed gratitude to the community for getting them where they are today, and thanked the BOCC for their support along the way.
 - The July meeting is cancelled. Time will be spent preparing for the retreat in August.

Presentation: 2012-13 CoA Report to the Community

- Today life expectancy is much longer than it was in the 1930's when social security was enacted. The focus of the commission's work has primarily been on the boomer generation because they're the first demographic age wage to hit.
- A video was shown on the phenomenon related to increasing numbers in the aging society, not only in this country, but globally.
 - Summary: People are living longer and having fewer babies. There are a larger number of people over the age of 60 than under the age of 15. This is a permanent, major shift in the population that will continue to rise with the baby boomers through the GenX'ers and Millennials. This shift will transform society – how and how long we work, how and where we live, how we organize our families, medical care, economic and political lives. Demographically speaking, people today are very

different than those in 1935 when average life expectancy was 65. Today we can expect to live about 15 years beyond average retirement age. Our institutions, economies, policies, social security, Medicare, communities, work – all were designed for the way things were 50 years ago and they don't work today. Change is required in the way we design and legislate in order to address the new demographics. The first step is to begin to envision new models, new ways of being, new lives.

- In 2011, a 25 member Aging Readiness Task Force was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners in order to plan and prepare for the age wave on a local level. They were charged with assessing the needs of the county as well as looking at ways to involve the community in planning by identifying existing services, programs, and the people who were working on making this an age-ready and livable county. From this 18 month effort evolved the Aging Readiness Plan, approved in February of 2012.
- The Aging Readiness Plan identified 91 strategies, categorized by short, medium and long-term. To oversee and implement the plan, the BOCC appointed the 9 member Commission on Aging in 2012. From diverse backgrounds and with experience in aging related fields, the commission acts as ambassadors in the community to provide leadership, advocacy, community awareness and partnerships to initiate change towards an all age-friendly, livable community.
- Having county leadership from the beginning has been an outstanding benefit. Community Planning received a national award of excellence for the Aging Readiness Plan from the American Planning Association in the special focus planning initiative, senior livability category.
- Work committees were formed for 7 focus areas: housing, benchmarks, transportation, healthy communities, community engagement, supportive services and communication. Commission members chaired and served on the committees as well as people brought in from the community.
- The chairs gave an update on their committees' work over the past several months.
- The complete annual report is available on the county's website, www.clark.wa.gov/aging
- Commissioner Stuart commended the group on their work. Discussion ensued on the shifting paradigm of working years and retirement years, and how the strategies will address the issue.
- Commissioner Madore thanked the commission and stated his pride in the county's leadership on a state and national level in this area. He encouraged mentoring as a program that can utilize the experience and skills of the senior population in the workforce and a way for them to give back to the community. Time banking is a great way to provide the means for people with expertise and interests to share those in ways that give them a purpose. Looking at what the Commissioners can do to help, it starts with setting up policies and standards to accommodate these conditions and identify specific actions items and priorities they can take that address the needs, such as sidewalk improvements and access to public transportation for seniors. He asked the commission members to let the BOCC know what they can do in the form of tangible projects and policies to help with their efforts.

- There was some discussion about public transportation in rural areas and the difficulty in providing services to those outside the cities.

New Business

- Election of officers:
 - Gary Beagle was nominated for chair and Karin Woll for vice-chair of the commission. The commission unanimously approved the nominations for both officers.

Public Comment

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.