



Clark County Commission on Aging
Remote Webex Meeting
Vancouver, Washington

MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, August 19, 2020
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Nancy Dong, Chuck Green, Amy Gross, Franklin Johnson, Meghan McCarthy, Linda O’Leary, Larry Smith, Tanya Stewart, Pam Wheeler

Members Absent: None

Staff and Presenters: Jacqui Kamp, Jenna Kay, Gary Albrecht, Oliver Orjiako, Colete Anderson, Marjorie Ledell

Audience Members: Bill Baumann, Donna Sinclair, M Stickley, Stephanie Geiger, Sarah Scott, Jeananne Edwards (Please note: this list may be incomplete as there was no sign-in sheet at this virtual meeting.)

1. Welcome and call to order

Larry Smith opened the meeting.

Introductions and welcome to new member

Commission members welcomed and introduced themselves to new member Tanya Stewart.

2. Recognition of Marjorie Ledell

Commission members and staff thanked outgoing commission member Marjorie Ledell for her six-years of service on the Commission on Aging.

3. Around the table

Commission members shared observations and experiences from the past several months since the group last met in February, 2020 and since the COVID-19 public health crisis unfolded in the county.

4. Approval of meeting minutes

The February 19 meeting minutes were approved.

5. Presentation: Transportation Planning update and proposed amendments to county Arterial Atlas

Presenter: Gary Albrecht, Clark County Public Works. Gary provided an overview of proposed amendments to the county arterial atlas, many of which are intended to improve bicycle connections in several parts of the county



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Q&A and Comments from Commission on Aging:

- **Amy:** is the map with the proposed changes available online? **Jacqui:** yes. It is currently posted in the Commission on Aging meeting materials on the commission's webpage.
- **Chuck:** do the proposed bike lanes link to other bike routes? **Gary:** yes. **Chuck:** we discussed micro-mobility options during our transportation focus year; has there been any consideration of including other things on bike lanes? **Gary:** Public Works is working on a Transportation Systems Plan and will look at that, such as electric bikes and electric scooters. **Chuck:** would you be able to come back and talk to the Commission on Aging for that project? **Gary:** yes.
- **Nancy:** what is a two-lane collector? **Gary:** Gary showed a schematic of a two-lane collector with parking and a two-lane collector with bike lanes.

Q&A and Comments from Public:

None

Commission on Aging Discussion

- The group voted unanimously to have the chair submit a letter of support for the project
- **ACTION ITEM: staff to connect with Chair and Vice Chair on letter submittal.**

6. 2020 Community Engagement and Advocacy Focus discussion and next steps

- Jacqui provided a recap of what the Commission had planned for 2020 and that most of those plans have been put on hold due to COVID-19
- The group discussed what they wanted to do and focus on for the remainder of the 2020 year given current circumstances
- Discussion:
 - Would like to hear from other organizations who serve seniors, find out how it is going and where the need is.
 - Would like to understand how to support senior mental health.
 - Wants to know how to get food out to neighbors who are isolated. Interest in organizations who are leading efforts to connect with seniors.
 - There is a lot of direct service going on, i.e. through Meals on Wheels. Maybe we can support work that is already going on and not duplicate efforts?
 - Public Health is working on outreach to the Pacific Island community. We could discuss if we want to not only focus on seniors but consider focusing on marginalized communities
 - Maybe there is a partnership opportunity to bridge the aging population with youth focused organizations like the school districts?
 - Email Jacqui if you think of anything else
 - **ACTION ITEM: Staff can put together a schedule for speakers and have the Chair and Vice Chair help solidify a plan**

7. Silver Citizen Award update and next steps

- There was a recap of where things are with the award. It was supposed to be presented at the Healthy Communities Summit. The award selection committee identified a person to recommend, but that recommendation hasn't been shared with the full Commission on Aging yet to vote on it. Before that happens, there was a discussion on how to present the award and give this person public attention.
- Logistically, staff needs at least 1-month to place an order for a physical award

- The Senior Heroes awards selected and notified their awardee. Larry check and find out how they plan to present that award
- Several commission members discussed publicizing the event, i.e. through TV coverage and social media. Tanya offered her help with layering on social media
- Group decided to take action in October and present the award in November
- **ACTION ITEM: staff will work on a press and publicity ideas and can share a plan back with the group**

8. Commission on Aging retreat prep

The group discussed possible retreat agenda topics

- Help with senior isolation challenges and ways to socialize and safely interact with others
- Senior role in helping schools with tutoring and learning gaps – could be in-person down the road or virtually sooner
- Consider looking at specific populations that need more of our attention and help
- Learn more about community and senior centers dealing with the pandemic and populations they are serving
- Take a long-term view, as we could be dealing with the virus for several years

9. Officer elections

- Chuck and Larry expressed interest in the Chair and Vice Chair roles, respectively
- Group unanimously voted Chuck to be Chair, with Chuck abstaining from vote
- Group unanimously voted Larry to be Vice Chair, with Larry abstaining from vote

10. Public Comment

- **Donna Sinclair:** congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair. Facilitated previous retreats for the Commission on Aging and those meetings started interest in the Commission on Aging. As a community member who has elders in their family, would like to see the group focus on the COVID-19 situation for seniors. It would be great to see that happen sooner than later.
- **Sarah Scott:** has been meaning to come to a meeting for years and glad the virtual meeting took place so that she could attend. Interested in the group's work and in elderly-friendly practices and welfare. As listened, thought the commission had excellent ideas and was glad to listen. Has specific ideas about education and the youth and senior connection. At some point, would like to reach out to learn more about the subject. Several years ago, was at a Ridgefield City Council meeting and saw a Commission on Aging presentation on housing. It was a great presentation and was how initially learned of the group. If the Commission ever needs a speaker to go somewhere and articulate what you're advocating for, glad to volunteer.
- **Commission member response to comments:** I also saw that Ridgefield presentation. Thank you for your comments and assistance.

11. New Business, Updates and Announcements:

Appreciations were shared with staff, to Larry and Chuck for their leadership over the past year, and to welcome Tanya

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:05 pm.

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