

Age-Friendly Maple Grove Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2024

NOTE: Future meetings will be held via the same Zoom link used for this meeting (not WebEx link that has been used historically). Zoom link will be sent along with updated meeting invitation before next meeting on Friday, November 8, 2024.

Attendees: Sharon Noble, Jane Warren, Anita Vang, Bill Tiedemann, Jen Olson, Kristy Janigo, Liz Faust, Peter Vickerman, Sue Hyland, Deb Stock, Joe Hogeboom, Lydia Morken

AF MG input for city's Maple Lakes and Teal Lake Linear Park Study

Peter Vickerman, Planning Director, City of Maple Grove

- Peter shared information about a study the city is doing through a grant from Active Living Hennepin County.
- Focus is on how to improve trail Arbor Lakes Trail System to make it better suited for “active transportation” – i.e., people using it as a means to get somewhere, not only to go for a walk, for example. *What’s working? Do you use it? Could it be improved?*
- The study won’t lead to immediate improvement projects but will help shape priorities and feed into a larger plan.
- Group discussion included ideas related to benches, lighting, bridges, functionality for walking and “rolling” (biking, walkers, wheelchairs, etc.), pedestrian crossings, emergency buttons, how to encourage more people to bicycle

To provide input:

- [Visit this website](#) for more background information.
- From there, click “Provide input,” which will take you [here](#).
- On this page, you can provide input in a couple of ways:
 - Click “[Map Maple lakes and Teak Lake Linear Park](#)” to find an interactive map tool that allows you to leave input on specific locations.
 - Click “[Survey Maple Lakes & Teal Lake Linear Parks](#)” to take a short survey.
- You may also call Peter Vickerman directly with your input at 763-494-6046.
- Timeline: **Please provide your input by 8/31/2024**. Grant work will wrap up in October.
- We also discussed the City’s [SeeClickFix](#) tool, which allows residents to go report a range of issues – including poor trail conditions, potholes, refuse on public property, etc. – directly to the city. [Click here for more information about how to use SeeClickFix](#).

Age-Friendly Maple Grove: Structure and potential renaming of Leadership Team

- Lydia led team discussion on AF MG structure: Steering Committee, Leadership Team, Domain Teams (focused on action plan implementation)
- Main discussion point was potential renaming/rebranding of “Leadership Team” – which may deter new people from attending meetings or getting involved because it sounds quite formal and as if expertise is required to attend or become a member. We would like a name that invites greater participation and more accurately reflects the role of the LT
- There was consensus that the name should change but the team did not land on a new one during the meeting. The Steering Committee will continue to discuss and all are invited to submit other ideas.
- [See slides presented during the meeting for more information](#)

City Update

Councilmember Kristy Janigo and Joe Hogeboom

New senior housing development approved

- Council just approved a new 55+ community at Hemlock/Arbor Lakes parkway
- To include 100 or more market-rate units
- Original plan included memory care, but because of changes to state requirements related to underground parking, developer could not include memory care.
- There is a need for more memory care in the community

Planning continues for affordable senior housing development at Fernbrook/County Road 30

- Ebenezer will be the developer for this project and has presented preliminary designs
- This will be an affordable housing development, with no units more than 80% of AMI (Area Median Income); final financing structure is being determined; will include some deeply affordable units, such as 30% AMI
- Very desirable location, with park and new pickleball courts nearby at Lakeview Knolls

Church of the Open Door planning tiny home development on its property for unhoused people

- This church is affiliated with [Settled.org](#), a proponent for people who have been chronically homeless
- New state legislation in 2023 gives churches more freedom to develop such projects with city approval
- They are planning 12 units; three would be occupied by volunteers who have not experienced homelessness
- City is meeting with Church of the Open Door; would be at least a two-year process before anything starts to happen

- Will be a fair amount of community engagement in the process and extensive vetting process for future residents
- Similar developments already exist in Roseville and Saint Paul

City forester leading efforts related to trees

- City hired a forester this year; he works closely with the citizen Arbor Committee that advises the city on tree-related and similar issues
- Big project is working on removing ash trees that have been dying and helping identify replacement trees
- A new pollinator demonstration garden in Central Park will help encourage residents to plant pollinator gardens in their own yards

New restaurant coming in at former Wahlburger's site

- Grackle is opening at former Wahlburger's site
- Run by an area couple that also owns Margie's in Andover
- A lot of excitement in community about this

New Veteran's benefit

- CM Janigo shared that, as a result of [new legislation](#), disabled veterans and their family members now have free access to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska; this 1,200-acre park offers extensive gardens and programming

Domain Team Updates

Bill, Lydia, Liz, Deb

Domain Teams began meeting in August; those already active shared reports. There are not currently Domain Teams for every domain. Anyone interested in joining a Domain Team can contact Liz or Lydia.

- **Housing – Bill Tiedemann**
 - Around 10 people on this team
 - Initial focus will be on affordable housing (raising awareness and community education) and staying connected to city efforts related to affordable housing
 - Idea emerged for a tour of affordable housing the city – perhaps via a caravan (given cost of a bus); there was immediate interest
 - Team will pursue this for October
 - Monthly meetings will be virtual and generally held on first Mondays, 10am
- **Communication & Information – Lydia Morken**
 - Five people on this team

- Big immediate project will be a redesign of the www.agefriendlymaplegrove.org website
- Monthly meetings will be virtual and generally held on second Tuesdays, 9:30am
- **Social & Civic Engagement** – Liz Faust
 - Small team without regular meetings scheduled so far
 - Hoping to re-engage Three Rivers Park District moving forward
 - More information to come
- **Community Support & Health Services** – Deb Stock
 - About six people working on this team
 - Focus areas include mental health, falls prevention and emergency preparedness
 - One initial action is working to expand the [File of Life](#) program in Maple Grove. File of Life contains a person’s current medical information, emergency contacts, etc. – and is kept in a visible place in a person’s home for emergency responders, who can access this critical information when a person is unable to provide it themselves

Update on Capstone project

Anita Vang, U of MN doctoral student in Occupational Therapy

- Anita has been doing her capstone project with Age-Friendly Maple Grove
- She conducted research related to social isolation among older MG residents
- Based on research findings, she will focus on communications for her remaining time with AF MG
 - She learned that texting is the preferred mode of communication for many older adults
 - She will be working with Parks & Rec to enhance their texting systems and to improve user-friendliness of website and registration process
- Following the meeting, Anita provided this written summary with more details given that we ran out of time in the meeting to fully discuss:
 - *Finished data project focused on investigating what barriers are impacting socially isolated older adults' engagement in community resources.*
 - *Results indicate that a majority of participants chose to be alone, prefer text messages, never heard of AFMG and are experiencing barriers within the 8 domains of liability.*
 - *The projects chosen to address the results of this project are to 1). investigate a reliable text/sms system for Parks and Rec 2). Offer recommendations on how Parks & Rec's website can be redesigned. Implementing these changes aim to help better communicate senior resources, activities and services to increase community engagement.*

- [Click here to view more information about Anita's project.](#) A final presentation will be made available in a few weeks.

Team Updates

Jen Olson, SilverCreek on Main

- Townhomes are now almost complete

Deb Stock, Caregiver Support Group Facilitator, Alzheimer's Association

- There are now four caregiver support groups in Maple Grove, and new one is starting soon
- More support group facilitators are needed! Contact Deb if interested.

Liz Faust, 55 Forward

- Fall activity guide came out recently; registration is strong and looking great

NEXT MEETING: Friday, November 8, 2024, 9am-10:30am