

Age-Friendly Maple Grove Leadership Team Meeting

March 11, 2022, | 8:30am-10:00am
Webex Meeting

MINUTES

Attendees: Jim Betzold, Caitline Enright, Liz Faust, Joe Hogeboom, Kristy Janigo, Carrie McLachlan, Jeanne McTootle, Lydia Morken, Giannina Posner, Heidi Schneider, Chuck Schwalbe, Deb Stock, Cheryl Theuninck, Jane Warren

Introductions

Kristy Janigo joined the first part of this meeting and introduced herself to the Team. She is a Maple Grove resident and heavily involved in community organizations, and she also is the policy director for Hennepin County Commissioner Kevin Anderson (District 7, which includes Maple Grove). Kristy noted a few things about her work in the office of Commissioner Anderson:

- The district includes a range of communities from urban to rural, so there are a wide range of situations and contexts. His office has worked on a variety of housing issues, including veterans' housing needs, as well as various aspects of transportation, focusing on giving people options such as walking and biking, while also recognizing the need for infrastructure improvements and mass transit.
- Hennepin County is also in the AARP age-friendly network, and that initiative is in line with the work of AF MG. Good opportunities for coordination and collaboration.

Discuss "The New Map of Life" from the Stanford Longevity Center

For this month's look at the broader world of age-friendly-related work, Lydia shared highlights from *The New Map of Life*, a recent report from the Stanford Center on Longevity. [The New Map of Life](#) lays out seven key principles to guide our new longevity, as 100-year-lives will become more the norm. She also shared a brief video associated with the report and available [here](#).

Team discussion related to this included the following:

- Fear of growing older in the U.S. given that there is frequently a lack of community and that as older people we can end up very isolated; in many other cultures this is not true. Older people remain integrated into extended families and communities and there is a "sense of togetherness."
- Joe Hogeboom noted that in the past couple of years there has been an uptick in requests for permits from people wanting to add on to their homes to accommodate aging parents so that multiple generations can live together. These requests are more common than they used to be.

Update from the City – Joe Hogeboom

Joe provided an update on AF-related work happening inside the city:

- The affordable senior housing community proposed for the corner across from Lifetime Fitness (Weaver Lake Road and Main Street) now is in question. Lifetime previously indicated they planned to leave Maple Grove, but now they may choose to stay. This changes things. Fortunately, important groundwork has been laid so that once a decision is made things could move quickly.
- The senior housing development being considered for the location off Lawndale Lane (behind Menard's) did not get state funding, so now a request for TIF funding is going to be brought to Council to help fund this development, which may include some affordable units. Tax-increment financing (TIF) is a way to help subsidize the project, but it requires getting all tax-collecting bodies on board—the city, the county, the school district. It is a significant ask. TIF funding has never been used for this type of housing before.
- A new market-rate senior coop building will likely be going up at the NE corner of Maple Grove Parkway and County Road 81—a new intersection that will be coming. While not affordable, these types of units tend to get snapped up quickly.
- Woodland Mounds, the city-owned senior apartment building, has long been mostly below market-rate but not officially affordable. The city has decided to make it formally affordable over time but putting income restrictions on units as they become vacant. A couple of Council members actually suggested building another Woodland Mounds-type building in the community.
 - The City also is organizing some outdoor art classes at Woodland Mounds in partnership with the Maple Grove Center for the Arts. The artists will lead painting either on the rooftop deck or another outdoor site at Woodland Mounds. Details are being figured out – no dates set yet. The events will be open to other older adults, not just WM residents. Liz Faust offered to help coordinate and publicize.
- The cities of Maple Grove and Brooklyn Park jointly hold an annual Community Forum on Race, and this year it will be held virtually on April 28, from 6-8:30pm. This event provides a safe space for what can be uncomfortable conversations and they usually include an interesting keynote speaker.

Community Needs Assessment Update - Lydia

The CNA Committee continues to meet monthly and will be meeting twice in March to ensure things are moving along. The main focus right now is finalizing developing of the community survey. The team will be pulling questions from a few existing surveys to create a customized survey that works for AF MG. In late March/early April, the committee will be sending out draft questions for subcommittees to review and weigh in on. We hope to have the survey ready sometime in May.

Cheryl suggested that it would help to have guidelines about how many questions each subcommittee could include. The CNA committee will discuss this at its next meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

Transportation - Cheryl

- *Survey:* The transportation subcommittee is already discussing needs assessment survey questions. They also met with Mike Opatz related to survey development and what thoughts he might have. He indicated that commuter rhythm is an area of focus for him right now; COVID has changes those routines and it is hard to predict how they will look in the future. Many workers now have hybrid models of working—a mix of working from home and from the office.
- *ADA Transition Plan:* A few members of the team, along with Liz and Lydia, also recently met with John Hagen, city transportation engineer, and a consultant from SRF related to the city's ADA transition plan. The city is developing a new policy guide and plan related to ADA accessibility in public and private rights of way in the city. This includes walking paths and trails.
 - AF MG was invited to be a stakeholder in the process; we heard a presentation from SRF, asked questions, and shared ideas and input.
 - One notable item is that there now is an official process in place for community members to file a grievance with the city related to an accessibility issue. This did not exist before.
 - The plan is in draft form right now. It is mostly a technical and legal document; it will be finalized soon and made available for public comment.
 - Discussion points included the following:
 - Role and importance of equity; “accessible” doesn’t always mean equitable, and that should be an ongoing lens to be applied to this type of work.
 - Different rules apply to private businesses than public agencies. Is there a possibility of the city incentivizing private businesses to include greater accessibility than what is minimally required?

Civic and Social Involvement - Liz

- Last time the team met they talked about the Y3 Progress Report. They are meeting less often this year.
- Giannina reported that Three Rivers Park District is doing another Step To It for the Latino community this year. Kickoff is April 30, and the challenge runs May 1-28. Eventually they hope to do it with other cultural communities, such as Hmong and Somali. They are also partnering with other cities and hoping to find ways to help connect older Latinos with activities such as pickleball, etc. Liz offered to help work on this.

Communication – Lydia/Liz

- Lydia and Liz continue to co-manage communications—mostly Facebook and City Focus articles at the moment. Facebook page now has 200+ followers.
- The next City Focus article is due April 15 for the issue that will be mailed out around May 27. We hope to be able to use the article to publicize the survey and include information about where people can go to find and take the online and paper surveys.

Housing - Lydia

- The Housing team met in February. Joe invited Brett Angell to join the meeting and meet the team. Brett is the city's Econ Development Manager.
- The team also got updates from Joe on some housing work in the City, similar to what he shared at this meeting, and discussed Y3 Progress Report content.

Community & Health Services – Liz

Liz shared an update provided by Marie Maslowski.

- Expanding marketing efforts for the Alzheimer Education Sessions. Sessions were postponed – now rescheduled at the Community Center: 10 warning Signs – Monday, April 11, 10am-11:30am; Understanding & Responding to Dementia Related Behaviors Monday May 9; 10:00 -11:30
 - LT members can help by hanging up flyers in the community. Please let Deb, Liz or Patty know if you would like a flyer.
 - Patty and Deb working on outreach to each senior living community to help spread the word and increase participation.
- Committee is working to identify a potential mental health training option and other ways to offer resources to support mental health:
 - Rather than the 8-hour Older Adult Mental Health First Aid class from NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Health), as was previously planned but rescheduled due to COVID, the team is now exploring a couple of shorter sessions session (1.5-2 hours), the first of which would likely be *Understanding Depression*. Anticipate offering this later this year.
- There is a transitioning of Committee Leadership this year:
 - Marie will end her tenure as committee co-chair at the end of May. She will continue to attend committee and Leadership Team meetings as possible. She is available to consult on age-friendly projects and the community assessment as needed beyond May.
 - Patty is unavailable to attend Leadership Meetings due to her new work schedule. She will stay involved as available and will support development of the action plan.

Year 3 Evaluation - Lydia

All subcommittees have submitted their information for the report. Lydia is working on a completing a first draft and will share a draft in late March or early April. Some discussion as to whether the report should reflect a three-year look at the work rather than a focus on just the past year, given that the action plan is fully complete. There are time and capacity constraints in terms of what would be required to add that additional information to the report, however. Discussion reflected comments supportive of keeping it to a one-year review.

Other News and Updates

- General – Lydia
 - Joined the AARP MN age-friendly communities' quarterly meeting – attendees are representatives from age-friendly network member communities around the state. Now 14 members. Many are undertaking survey prep and dissemination with some similar issues and questions as Maple Grove is considering.
- Rotary – Jim
 - March 19 – lights around skating rink coming down.
 - Removing buckthorn in April – invasive species.
 - Cancelled fish fry at Legion because of COVID.
 - STRIVE program only has a few more meetings.
- North Memorial - Carrie:
 - Buried in data these days (for the North Memorial/Maple Grove Hospital community health needs assessments). First data brief coming out this next week. Quantitative data only at this stage; gathering of qualitative data will come later. First focus is socio-demographic data. Not sure if she can share externally yet but will do so when possible.
- City/55 Forward - Liz:
 - Jan – Feb were slow months with COVID again. More snowbirds this year. Broader trend in other communities, too. Hadn't been mailing out 55 Forward newsletter for awhile (printed copy of newsletter to 1,600 people). Yearly mailing list. We're using a new mailing list now, see how it goes.
 - Community center redesign – a meeting next week (3/15) in evening open to the public to discuss. Some of this will depend on vote in November whether sales tax passes (1/2 cent on the dollar).

Next meeting: Friday, April 8, 2022