

MINUTES

Age-Friendly Maple Grove Leadership Team Meeting

8:30am-10:00am | November 13, 2020
via Webex

Attending: Jim Betzold, Mark Carpenter, Tim Conaway, Liz Faust, Joe Hogeboom, Karen Jaeger, Carole Lothian, Marie Maslowski, Jeanne McTootle, Lydia Morken, Kris Orluck, Giannina Posner, Chuck Schwalbe, Pat Schwalbe, Cheryl Theuninck

News & Updates:

Pat Schwalbe, CROSS:

- CROSS is moving full speed ahead. Clients are in serving themselves using all precautions. Community responding in a beautiful way. Big food drives were affected by COVID, but people rallied and more came in than expected. CARES Act money from City of Maple Grove provided funding for housing, food, bills, and it has greatly benefitted those in need.
- Currently working on the Give to the Max Campaign and preparing for the Toy Shoppe collecting toys and gift cards. The Toy Shoppe is now at CROSS; families will shop by appointment, December 1 – 21. Volunteers have really stepped up, and all Toy Shoppe volunteer slots are filled. People can donate toys now through the month of November.
- Maynard's in Rogers donates 100% of their food sales on November 30th (including takeout).

Jim, Rotary:

- November 21 is the Gala for the Rotary. Virtual this year.
- On December 15, Mark & Liz from AFMG will be presenting at the Rotary meeting to provide general update. It's been two years since AFMG present there. Jim will share the link to that meeting so that anyone can join to see the presentation.

Karen:

- Special Council meeting will be held on Monday, 11/16 and Council and will be discussing CARES funding.
- Age Friendly MN conference put on by AARP will be happening Tuesday, 11/17 and Wednesday, 11/18.

Liz:

- Liz will be representing AF MG in a panel discussion at the AARP conference. The panel topic relates to the resilience of age-friendly communities. Representatives from three age-friendly cities in MN (Brooklyn Park and Northfield are the other two) will talk about how pre-COVID work helped them be more resilient in the face of COVID, as well as examples of specific efforts that these cities and age-friendly initiatives have taken in response to COVID.
- The Winter P&R brochure will be released soon; it includes activities through March. Still communicating twice/month via e-news. The City is watching the Governor's mandates, and

following the rules with extremely limited class numbers and ensuring people are spread out in large spaces. They are hopeful that in-person activities can continue to some extent. Hard to know how things will progress into the new year.

Joe:

- City undergoing a housing study to assess market conditions and what might happen or be needed in 10 years. The study includes apartments, single family homes, and senior housing. Largely driven by question of whether the market or need for apartment buildings has been saturated, as many apartment buildings have gone up in recent years. They hope to present the study findings to Council in January, and then develop and present some recommendations after that.
- Main Street redesign: doing some update and replacements/refreshments. More ADA, landscaping, new sidewalks/crosswalks, roadway materials, etc. Because of COVID they are using some alternative ways to gather community input: a website people can use to submit comments; window clings on businesses on Main Street that advertise the website for public comment; possibly a kiosk at Byerly's where people can submit comments. For Holiday on Main Street this year there will be no parade, but instead there will be some additional decorations, old-fashioned window display in old Schuler's store, heat lamps, etc. (Also the new Schuler's store has been leased, but not yet sure who the tenant will be.)
- Joe gave some review of what he is seeing in Maple Grove housing—such as need for smaller, single-level homes. Many people don't want to live in senior apartment buildings and many also can't afford the market-rate senior buildings. It was suggested that Joe be interviewed as part of the Zoom interview series, and could perhaps contribute to a blog post covering some of the info related to housing. Kris will follow up with this. Lydia also said that AFMG can help push things/information out through channels of the Leadership Team (Facebook, website, etc.) and our partners.

Lydia: Brooklyn Park has submitted their application into the AARP Age Friendly Network of States & Communities (which MG joined in 2016). There are opportunities to think about how we might work together, as neighbors. And Hennepin County is now developing its action plan and is hoping to have an Age Friendly Coordinator at some point starting next year, which could include helping to coordinate city and county work. AF is continuing to grow and more municipalities are taking on this work. After the election earlier this month, Maple Grove has a new County Commissioner (Kevin Anderson), but all other elected officials remain unchanged (state reps, state senator, and City Council members). We should think about how we might want to keep them updated and informed.

Sub-Committee Updates

Community Support & Health Services Team:

- Older Adult Mental Health First Aid Course. Good registration numbers so far, a number of AFMG team members are signed up to attend. Participants should think about what feedback they could give on the training.
- Advanced Care Planning classes will be held in the next several months. There are several different classes, and all are free. Marie will share an updated flyer soon for AF MG members to consider enrolling as well as to help publicize the classes.
- This team met with two reps from the MG Fire Department. AFMG can work with Fire on home safety, smoke alarm issues, how FD members might observe needs (food, home repairs) while in

older residents' homes to replace smoke detector batteries. We are working on how can we connect individuals in need of food and/or services to the right resources. Mary Jo Bittner, the new Senior Coordinator at CROSS, may get connected to AF MG. We hope to bring her into the work.

Transportation Report: Cheryl presented a PowerPoint that summarizes the report (copy attached). The report will be shared with the City for their consideration, acknowledging the COVID and social unrest that 2020 has brought.

In short, the primary recommendations aim to continue to support the City and act as advocates around transportation.

1. My Ride: grow this program; consider adding smaller vehicles
2. Explore point to point alternatives and encourage more affluent to use (e.g., Uber)
3. Explore developing a circulator bus service

Group comments/question on the report:

- Should we include driving issues? Signage, traffic management, parking? Incorporate the classes on Sr. Driving?
- Handicapped parking, Karen advocates to new builders to include in plans. (Lydia also shared a message received through the Facebook page about how handicapped parking can get icy and unsafe in the winter. Is there something we can do with this issue to make it more known?)

Housing: Met this week. Team is developing a brochure on local housing resources as a non-web-based means of communication. It will include a selection of housing information from the website. It is a3 panel brochure; we will share when it is more developed. The plan is to print on demand, only as needed. Then will develop a policy brief on housing approaches that support age friendly communities. Year 2 action plan goals are policy related.

Civic and Social: Liz noted it is hard to schedule this committee as the members are so busy. COVID is making the goals hard to meet (e.g., getting involved with schools, connecting people). We met some of the virtual program needs through the Sr Center. No other big updates.

Communications: Zoom interviews are going well; thanks to Chuck and Tim for making them happen. In the works are two with MAAA (one about Senior LinkAge Line and one about free classes through Juniper), Shannon from the MG Fire Department, Rose from the MG Library, Deb from Senior Community Services. Now will add Joe on housing.

Looking for blog post ideas. Please send in anything we can use on the blog, even in rough draft, we will polish it and send to you for review for posting. Ideas that are current requests caregiving, fire, and scams. Requested: Joe/Housing, Cheryl/Transportation Report, Pat/CARES Act Funding, Liz/Driving or Sr Programs. Encourage everyone to think about ideas to keep this part of our web site changing.

Scams Flyer: The 3-page version has been adapted into a two-page version to allow for single-page, double-sided printing. Hope to distribute to senior housing communities, Community Center, on Facebook, website. Pat said that she would make them available to Meals on Wheels participants, CROSS family resources managers, the volunteer room. Tim will check on posting with CCX. Will include the updated flyer with the minutes; please share in your circles.

Fundraising: 2020 Budget, income and expenses was presented. Will have a little bit of carryover into 2021, which is good because of uncertain funding with COVID and budget cuts. Mark will send a request to subcommittee chairs to review year three action plans to see if additional money will be needed.

Next meeting: Friday, December 11, 2020, 8:30-10am