

# Age-Friendly Maple Grove Leadership Team Meeting

April 14, 2023, | 8:30am-10:00am  
Webex Meeting

*Attendees:* Byron Byraiah, Jim Betzold, Carrie McLachlan, Liz Faust, Giannina Posner, Kristy Janigo, Mary Jo Buettner, Lydia Morken, Cheryl Theuninck

## MINUTES

### Introductions & Welcome

#### Team updates:

##### *Giannina – Three Rivers*

- Very busy now that it's spring, but we were busy in the winter, too. Lots of engagement.
- Coming up:
  - Step to It – a larger annual program but again this year Three Rivers is organizing a Latino senior-specific group. There is an event on 4/29 at Cooper High School and many are expected to attend.
  - Working with Hennepin County on programs for Latino seniors in the month of May—there will be 2 Zumba classes and 2 walks
- There has been a lot of park attendance/parks programs participation by Somali people – much bigger group groups than anticipated – for tubing, snowshoeing, etc.

##### *Jim - Rotary*

- Just built another 10 beds for kids who don't have them, and delivered 3 to a Ukrainian family who didn't have beds.
- The MG Quilting Guild gives quilts for these beds
- Anticipate building another 10 beds before the Bed Race coming up relatively soon – that's a very busy time of year.

##### *Councilmember Kristy Janigo – City of MG update*

- Update on site on Main St./Weaver Lake Road:
  - City remains interested in affordable senior housing building there; we know the need is great.
  - Will be looking at the land on the other side of Lifetime that is already city-owned
  - The concept would likely be similar to the CommonBond senior building near there
  - Other aspects of that site being discussed are other retail or small business there on another level of a development
  - An architect has been identified (JLG Architects)
  - *Question about levels of affordability: Arbor Lakes Commons is the existing CommonBond senior building; residents of that building pay no more than 30% of the AMI (Area Median Income). This is considered deeply affordable. A new affordable senior building coming up near Menard's – Garland Commons – will be at 50%-80% of AMI.*
- Site at Cty Rd 30/Fernbrook – currently a small recycling center:

- A lot of residents don't know about this small center and its services are somewhat duplicative of what's offered nearby in Brooklyn Park, so city might repurpose that land for something else; City is considering another Woodland Mounds type project (city-owned, affordable independent senior apartment building)
- Gearing up for Hwy 610 extension project
- New commercial development slated for stretch along I-94:
  - Good to have more businesses/employers there on a stretch that is currently kind of unsightly
- Mayor signed the [National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge](#) to support Monarch butterflies. The city pledge March 31, 2023 as Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day. Also included are a number of action items to support Monarch conservation.
  - Rotary is tossing around the idea of doing some related planting at Woodland Mounds – more to come on that
  - Some group discussion of *No Mow May* as another pollinator support effort that some cities are doing. Maple Grove technically participates and doesn't enforce grass height limits during this month; however, so far it hasn't actively promoted it so there is probably limited awareness among residents
- Byron noted that many people in Hindu community interested in single family townhome developments and there was some discussion on this topic.

*Carrie – North Memorial/Maple Grove Hospital*

- Moving forward with putting in place community health implementation plans on our two priorities—1) Racial Disparities in Health and 2) Life Impacting Traumas)
- Creating three-year plans to address those issues
- Racial disparities in health:
  - Focusing this year on Black women and breast cancer. Within 8 miles radius of the hospital there are 300 Black women who are behind on their screenings. Really focusing on that population. Much higher breast cancer mortality rates among Black women.
  - After that, will focus more on prevention – broad spectrum across many disparate groups related to screenings and routine care, etc.
  - Many people are delaying care, can't find mental health care. Awareness raising and prevention and importance of prevention.
    - US and Twin Cities experiencing a syphilis outbreak. Need screenings.
    - Getting people connected to primary care providers because that helps keep people up to date on their screenings.
- Life impacting traumas:
  - Heard from communities that they want providers who are Trauma Informed
  - Pulling together a fall conference to promote/advance Trauma Informed Care; will be both for North Memorial and community members.
  - Solo black women business owners who are in the healthcare/health fields have attended some of our engagement events. They lack access to continuing ed in different fields – they said making education/training opportunities offered by North available to them would be helpful, so North is working on that.
  - Developing a racial equity tool to apply to its work
  - Some discussion of the city's Narcan grant; Kristy noted that a resident suggested she connect with North Memorial on this topic.

*Liz – City/Parks & Rec/55 Forward*

- 55 Forward – attendance and participation has been really high.
- Park & Rec is having its first annual department meeting – will be presenting a report to the Park Board as a whole group for the first time
- Summer brochure went out recently and now already looking at a deadline for the Fall brochure.

*Mary Jo Buettner – CROSS*

- At the Crow River Senior Center there are upcoming activities for people with dementia and their care partners; activities involve U of MN Extension and Master Gardeners
- At the end of April CROSS is having a pickleball tournament fundraiser; it's all filled up.

*Lydia – AF MG and AFMN*

- Lydia and Liz attended the March 21 City Council meeting and Lydia presented to the Council. The two main topics were highlights from Year 3 of our Action Plan, and an update on the community needs assessment. It was a positive experience and good to connect with the Council, which has two new members since AF MG last presented to that group.
- The new Age-Friendly MN resources mentioned at the last meeting are confirmed to be available online, when ready, through March 31, 2024, the end of the AF MN Grant period. More resources, including presentations on a variety of age-friendly topics, will be made available over time. All can be at [agefriendlymn.org](http://agefriendlymn.org), a website created as part of the AF MN Grants Program.

**Age-Friendly: Report from the Field**

- Lydia recently attended the American Society on Aging conference and attended a good session by Age-Friendly Columbus/Franklin County (Ohio). She shared a video that was presented at the session. View the video here: [A Day in the Life of Karen](#).
- After viewing together, there was some group discussion about whether disability is included in the work of Age-Friendly Maple Grove and how that should be integrated going forward. Jim got an inquiry from a community member about this.

**Community Needs Assessment Update:**

- About a dozen interviews with city staff have been conducted in the past few weeks as a final piece of the needs assessment. Lydia, Liz, Patty Anderson, and Sarah Abrams (Trellis) were the AF MG representatives who participated in the interview process. There are 2-3 left to do.
- Interviews were 30-40 minutes, and each staff member was asked to talk about older adults/aging from the vantage point of their particular roles and positions. Much good information was collected, staff were supportive and helpful, and it was great to connect with a wide range of staff. We spoke to staff from nearly
- Once the interviews are completed, the committee will focus on analyzing findings from the survey, key informant interviews, and city staff interviews to identify themes, needs, and opportunities. AF MG LT members will also be engaged in this work as we move closer to developing our next action.

**Next month's meeting – May 12**

- Next month AF MG will hold its Leadership Team meeting in person for the first time since the beginning of COVID-19. We will meet in Room 133 at the Community Center and may continue to meet 3-4 times a year in person.

- TBD whether people could participate virtually, as well (i.e., whether there will be a hybrid option); Liz will look into logistics and we will get a sense interest in this option
- We hope to use the time to engage the group in identifying priorities and strategies for our next action plan, as the needs assessment activities are almost complete. The committee will be discussing this further ahead of the May 12 meeting
- Byron noted that at the Hindu temple, there is a need and opportunity to develop more inter-generational connections. He and Liz will connect about a meeting time to discuss.

### **Older Americans Month 2023**

- May is Older Americans Month; this year's theme is "Aging Unbound." Lydia invited the group to think about what we might want to do to recognize this. Cheryl suggested an article in the Osseo-MG Press. She will check on deadlines and details and follow up.
- Lydia also mentioned a series of Facebook posts related to Older Americans Month.

Next meeting: Friday, May 12, 2023  
*In-person at the Maple Grove Community Center*