

# Age-Friendly Maple Grove Leadership Team Meeting

December 8, 2023 | 8:30am-10:00am  
Via Webex

## MINUTES

*Attendees: Liz Faust, Anita Vang, Byron Byraiah, Cheryl Theuninck, Deb Stock, Jennifer Olson, Joe Hogeboom, Councilmember Kristy Janigo, Sharon Noble, Esther Hollender Felson (CROSS), Lydia Morken*

### **New Meeting Schedule & Structure: 2024**

Lydia reviewed the new structure that AF MG will use beginning in 2024. We will add a Steering Committee in addition to the Leadership Team and subcommittees. Anyone is welcome to join the Steering Committee if interested; it will meet every other month.

The Leadership Team now will meet quarterly – February, May, August and November. We may identify a new time/day. After a poll during the meeting and not being able to find enough agreement on a new time, Liz will send out a Doodle poll with several options as a next step.

### **Planning an AF MG Open House**

The Open House and Kickoff event is scheduled for Wed., Jan. 10, 2:00-3:30pm. All are welcome. We hope to see old and new friends of AF MG as well as community members new to the initiative. Lydia will send out the invitation that can be circulated.

### **City Updates**

*Joe Hogeboom*

- Site at Fernbrook Lane/County Road 30 (near the arboretum)
  - Gearing up to send out RFQs for affordable senior housing developments at this site; hope to hear from about 8 developers
    - RFQ: Looking for 100-130 units –
    - Leaving it open-ended in terms of design and encouraging creativity and a mix of product to achieve that number of units.
    - Aiming for affordability of 30-50% of AMI, or perhaps a sliding range, that would apply to the entire development, not just a portion.
    - One advantage in this situation is that the city owns the property already, which removes many hurdles.

- City is also doing a planning study for whole corridor of Fernbrook Lane; it used to be county road but is now a city road; in turning it back to the city, the county gave city some funding to make some improvements
- Goal: Get update memo to City Council next week about planning we've been doing
- Experience Maple Grove is trying to make Maple Grove a "winter wonderland." there are lots of lights on Main St. If winter ever comes, we'll have Ice Castles near Community Center for the first time this year.
- **Comprehensive Plan:**
  - Every 10 years, cities do a comp plan update. Overall, its a macro plan for all different systems in the city--housing, land use, wastewater treatment, water supply, etc.
  - Met Council oversees this; comp plans help ensure orderly development throughout metro.
  - Due in 2030 and we are already gearing up for that; it's a long process. In next year or so we'll be looking at housing/senior housing.
- *Question: Any status updates on Lifetime Fitness?* Joe: Not really. LF is pulling back from active negotiations, so probably something that might take place again after the holidays.
- *Question: Townhomes for seniors (near Hindu Temple) - are they still planned as rentals?* Joe: Yes, rental only, despite interest from Hindu community in for-sale units.

*CM Kristy Janigo:*

- Council is holding a strategic planning session in January – dig into City goals and see how we're doing on that.
- Community Center renovations underway; a third sheet of ice being put in. This phased renovation will impact the entire exterior of the building over time. Phase 2-3 will include redoing senior center. Community work groups are still meeting to provide input to the process.

### **Action Plan: Update & Discussion**

The final draft of the action plan was circulated to the Leadership Team earlier in the week. Next step is to share with remaining community partners and at the same time the plan is being brought into a graphic layout by end of year or very early Jan. 2024.

### **Team Updates**

*Byron B – Hindu Temple*

- Planning a New Year celebration on Dec 31, expecting 2,000 – 3,000 people

*Kristy Janigo – Hennepin County*

- *I want to let this group know that the state legislature has appropriated significant funding for veterans Meals on Wheels. If you need to refer a vet who is experiencing food insecurity, have them reach out. This program started for seniors, which are still a key focus, but any veteran experiencing food insecurity may be eligible. We will help with the applications. 612-348-3300 or [vetservices@hennepin.us](mailto:vetservices@hennepin.us)*
- Kristy will be returning to the legislature this year to advocate for a wider range of housing benefits for veterans and increasing monthly personal allowance; right now they can only keep \$90/month of their income, which hasn't been updated in about 30 years

*Sharon Noble, MG Library*

- Shared HC demographic map that included breakdown of residents 65-plus as well as concentrations of BIPOC communities in Maple Grove and Hennepin County. Maple Grove has some of the highest percentages of older people; Osseo, too.
- Very interesting map produced by the county; Sharon will check to see whether it could be emailed to the team.
- Library has full report of SHAPE data available – probably about 100 pages long.

*Esther Hollender Felson (CROSS)*

- Esther is the Director of Program Advancement – has added career counseling to CROSS programming.
- MG Library team has been so important in supporting central library with CROSS related to Job Club.
- This area (in/around MG) doesn't get the services it deserves so very excited to implement this program. Representatives from DEED (MN Department of Employment and Economic Development), Dept of Transportation (DOT) Human Resources, and others are coming to meet with the group. Some of them will be touring CROSS. Kristy Janigo also referred a female vet to us.
- These services help connect people with a passion/interest and a paid job. There is often limited thinking – need a job for income. But it's more than that – holistically looking at person and what they need.
- Question: For caregivers, they often need to rediscover who they are once their caregiver role is over. Could this service be appropriate for them?
  - Esther: Yes, most crucial part of job club is coming together as community and you're not alone. You're searching, whether for employment or for who you are. Really focused on people's strengths. I help people remember or identify their strengths – big part of this. Pulling together resources to meet the right where they are. Deb and Esther will connect offline. [Esther@crossservices.org](mailto:Esther@crossservices.org). 763-284-0729

*Jennifer Olson, SilverCreek on Main*

- Townhomes (rentals) broke ground – weather is helping us with that progress. On target for late summer availability. Hoping to have information meetings in Jan. but may be later.

- Hosting educational presentation in Jan. regarding depression in older adults. Kay King from NAMI is presenting – continuing ed credits available. Risk factors, warning signs, SAD, etc. Open to anybody. Jan. 30 – in morning, 8:30-10am.
- *Various members were interested in this and will help promote – through library, caregiver support group, etc.*

*Deb Stock, Alz Association volunteer/support group leader*

- Desperate for support group facilities. Demand for support groups continues to be very high.

*Anita Vang, U of MN graduate student:*

- Have selected final idea, which will focus on social isolation and helping impacted residents identify barriers and solutions.
- Esther will be spending 14 weeks with AF MG in the summer on this work and complete a data-driven project.
- We'll be recruiting isolated participants and we'll screen them with assessments and if they meet requirements we'll move forward to help identify the barriers and solutions.
- Recruitment: We'll post on AF MG social media, flyers, (will be approved by IRB)
- Anita and Esther will connect on this to see how CROSS could support the effort

*Liz Faust, 55 Forward*

- Winter senior activity guide went out last week; registration opens on Tuesday
- High demand; adding many presentations and classes, more than usual, because of huge demand in fall.

**Next meeting: February 2024, specific date/time TBD**