

## Age-Friendly Outdoor Spaces and Buildings Workgroup Meeting Minutes - January 30, 2020

**PRESIDING:** Terri Hansen, Age-Friendly Coordinator

### **Members Attending**

Mary Pat Donelan  
Matt Madera  
Donald Mock  
Georgea Moore  
Nicole Morgal  
Marian Vessels  
Manuel Evangelista  
Alice L. Lewis

### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am

### **Welcome & Purpose of Meeting**

This was an initial meeting and was considered an “exploration” meeting. The meeting’s intention was 1) to have members get to know each other, 2) learn about the role of the Outdoor Spaces and Buildings workgroup, and 3) to look ahead to what’s possible in the future.

### **Introductions**

Each workgroup member was asked to write down why they wanted to be a part of the Outdoor Spaces and Buildings workgroup and then introduced themselves and shared with the group what they had written down.

- **Manuel Evangelista:** Wants to promote movement in a safe environment
- **Georgea Moore:** Finds Age-Friendly fascinating. Feels many of the 8 domains overlap. She is interested in seeing more ways to increase interest and awareness regarding intergenerational engagement.
- **Mary Pat Donelan:** Member of The Village in Howard—comprised of 190 seniors. Mary Pat wants to focus on how to keep our facilities looking nice (for example Jackson Pond); also noted the county needs affordable places for groups to meet
- **Alice L. Lewis:** retired teacher; Alice likes aesthetically pleasing and useable
- **Matt Madera:** works for Recreation and Parks at North Laurel Community Center. Matt wants to use his position in this workgroup to better serve the community. He feels it is important to increase access and mentioned the Department’s goals to decrease residents’ distance to get to a park (using trails)
- **Donald Mock:** Works for Department of Inspections, Licensing and Permits. Believes he may have information to help the group. He wants to make sure we can get services to everyone. (Terri mentioned Don’s involvement in the 55+ Communities that have required Universal Design Guidelines that enable individuals to age in place.)
- **Nicola Morgal:** works for Recreation and Parks. Seeks to increase public awareness of parks and public buildings. Believes that residents should be made aware of the smaller parks, CA offerings, YMCA, etc. She feels that many in the county are not aware of what is available

- **Marian Vessels:** Sees the need to increase physical activity and social connectivity and recognizes the importance of being outdoors (as a former health educator). As a wheelchair user Marian would like to see the group identify which trails are physically accessible by wheelchair users; she stressed the importance of people knowing what resources are available. Also of importance, is assuring there is a welcoming attitude and that managers are aware of language needs (when advertising events/programs/services)

## Roles

- Coordinator
  - Terri Hansen is the Coordinator of the entire Age-Friendly Howard initiative.
  - She will attend as many workgroup meetings as she can
  - She will work collaboratively with the Steering Committee.
- Steering Committee
  - The Steering committee will be made of members from the government, non-profits, faith-based communities, chamber of commerce, library, Howard Community College, Howard County General Hospital
  - The Steering committee will receive all the action plans from each workgroup and will determine which actions will be included in the final action plan
- Workgroups
  - Members need to be committed and be an active member of the group
  - Each member of the workgroup (except for government staff) will need to register as a volunteer on the Howard County volunteer website, [www.hocovolunteer.org](http://www.hocovolunteer.org)
    - Each member will be responsible for logging in all their volunteer hours
- Co-Chairs
  - Each workgroup will have Co-Chairs
    - 1 must be government staff
    - 1 must be from the community
  - If interested in becoming a Co-Chair, submit answers to following questions to [agefriendly@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:agefriendly@howardcountymd.gov) by February 5<sup>th</sup>
    - Why do you want to serve as co-chair of the workgroup?
    - What previous community experience in a leadership role or experience on the topic make you a good candidate for co-chair?
  - Responsibility of the Co-Chairs
    - Keeping the workgroup on task
    - Developing agendas
    - Delivering the work of the workgroup at designated timeframes
    - Meeting quarterly with the Steering Committee

## Age-Friendly Overview

Age-Friendly is a community effort and is not considered to be just the work of Howard County Government. It is a joint effort between the government, non-profits, businesses, and the community at large. There are 8 domains of Age-Friendly. Many domains overlap. The Age-Friendly initiative will allow workgroups to explore 1) where we are today, and 2) how we will look 5 years from now. The 8 domains are:

- **Social Participation** – Access to leisure and cultural activities; opportunities to socialize, engage and combat isolation
- **Community Support & Health Services** – Assistance and affordable care options for all ages
- **Work and Civic Engagement** – Opportunities for active community engagement, paid employment and meaningful volunteer options
- **Respect & Social Inclusion** – Programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as multigenerational interaction and dialogue
- **Transportation** – Sidewalks and safe, crossable streets for pedestrians; dedicated bicycle lanes; public and other transportation options

- **Outdoor Spaces & Buildings** – Availability of safe and accessible recreational facilities and accessible buildings
- **Communication & Information** – Information sharing through a variety of delivery methods, with respect for cultural and age-related differences
- **Housing** – Housing options to meet the needs of those with differing incomes, ages and life stages

### **Age-Friendly Process**

Developing an Age-Friendly community is a 5-year plan

- **Years 1 & 2:** 1) Conduct a survey and listening sessions, and 2) develop, a comprehensive action plan
  - The action plan will identify benchmarks and will be able to measure success.
  - The action plan is to be submitted to the Steering Committee by the end of October 2020 and is to be completed by December 2020 in time for the 1-year anniversary of Age-Friendly Howard County on December 3, 2020.
- **Years 3-5:** Implementation
- **Year 5:** Progress/status update

### **Survey**

A survey has been developed through the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence and is in its final stages. The purpose is to get feedback from the community. The survey will go live on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The survey will be available online at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Community-Resources-and-Services/Office-on-Aging-and-Independence/Age-Friendly>

A paper copy of the survey will also be available at 50+Centers, libraries, county buildings, and other places throughout Howard County. The survey will be in four languages 1) Korean, 2) Hindi, 3) Mandarin Chinese, and 4) Spanish. The survey is geared toward the 50+ population, however all adults of any age are encouraged to complete it. The survey will be available until the end of February 2020. The survey will be analyzed, and the data will be available by the end of March 2020.

### **Other items**

One member mentioned the Odyssey of the Mind at UMBC as a project to explore

One member suggested getting demographics from the library's recent community study.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia. Subsequent meetings will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9am, same location.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Recording Secretary: Darlene Vaselaros