

Age-Friendly Work & Civic Engagement Workgroup Meeting Minutes - January 28, 2020

PRESIDING: Terri Hansen, Age-Friendly Coordinator

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm

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 Work and Civic Engagement 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 Social Participation workgroup and then introduced themselves and shared with the group what they had written down.

- **Suellen Seigel:** Served as an event coordinator for the Mall in Columbia; Specializes in special events; Would like to bridge the gap for ages. Loves giving back.
- **Jim Sanders:** Involved with the Village in Howard County. Teaches social entrepreneurship. There are three things that increase the quality of life. 1) Purpose, 2) Fitness, and 3) Social Engagement.
- **Bruce Fulton:** Volunteers for Neighbor Ride & on Board of ACS; citizens are our biggest assets; we need to leverage this with civic engagement
- **Manuel Evangelista:** Wants to age in Howard County and wants to be a part of the process. Believes nothing can defeat experience. We need to learn from others. He owns AAA Physical Therapy and is forming a virtual companionship organization.
- **Pamela Reese:** Works as a contingent employee for Robinson Nature Center; Advocates for intergenerational opportunities and the contingent workforce
- **Phyllis Meyerson:** Volunteers for many different groups; interested in enhancing volunteerism; Volunteers are critical for Age-Friendly. Must look at quality
- **Ted Meyerson:** Serves on the Commission on Aging Board; liaison with AARP
- **Darlene Vaselaros:** Volunteer Coordinator for the Howard County Office on Aging & Independence; would like to enhance volunteer opportunities
- **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. She sees a shortage of work force opportunities. Wants to work on ways to leverage retention ideas. Want to tap into younger adults. Want to discuss what our yardstick is.
- **Karen Hull:** SeniorsTogether Program manager; want to expand our understanding of opportunities for older adults
- **Nicholas Keplinger:** Works at Elkridge 50+Center; volunteers for various groups; feels being on a work group can help him grow as an employee; likes to give back to the community. Sees activism of older adults through the Councils.
- **Marika Sniscak:** Moving into Miller’s Grant. Wants to be more civically engaged. Want to help people get involved in organizations.

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
 - 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 by February 5th
 - 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 3rd. 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.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.

Recording Secretary: Darlene Vaselaros