

AGE-FRIENDLY OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS WORKGROUP MINUTES



Date: April 15, 2020
Time: 9:00AM
Facilitator: Terri Hansen

In Attendance

Terri Hansen
Ted Meyerson
Margaret Pittman
Nicola Morgal
Kathleen Krintz
Don Mock
Manuel Evangelista
Alice Lewis

Minutes Approved

Minutes had a couple of typographical errors that were identified and will be fixed.

Announcements:

Old Business:

- Terri stated still need leadership within this group. No one has volunteered as of yet. If no volunteers will have to figure out which domain this group could merge with.
- Talked about putting together a vision statement at the last meeting. Two individuals agreed to work on that.

New Business:

Mary Pat Donelan and Margaret Pittman came up with two possible vision statements

1. To educate and inspire older adults on ways to stay active and to create, promote and enhance welcoming spaces that are accessible, multi-generational and sustainable
 2. To create and to inspire innovative year-round use of welcoming spaces that are inclusive, accessible, multi-generational and sustainable so that older adults are encouraged to stay active.
- Margaret was unsure if the Age-Friendly focus was inclusive of all ages or just older adults and asked for clarity. Terri stated that the Age-Friendly concept was designed initially to focus on older adults. What was found was that all ages benefit from an Age-Friendly community. What we have said in the start of the Howard County process is that we want an age-friendly community for all ages. While some elements of the Action Plan will focus on older adults, overall the concepts will serve the entire community.

- The group worked to finalize the vision statement. After considerable collaboration the following was offered:

To educate and inspire community members, especially older adults, on ways to stay active and will create, promote and enhance welcoming spaces that are inclusive, accessible, multi-cultural, multi-generational, and sustainable.

- Terri believes this will help with where this group needs to go.
 - How do you want to go about making the vision a reality?
 - How do you break this down into manageable steps over the next several months?
- Nicola said from this statement we now develop our goals and objectives.
- Terri asked as a group do you want to break it down into small groups, and work on different parts of the education piece. Or, work as an entire group to finalize our goals first.
- Nicola was thinking maybe if we individually send the goals to Terri, and then next meeting as a group we can decide our top goals.
- Terri stated that she needs everyone to work on the goals, by sending in what you believe to be goals.
- Manuel added a suggestion to do our items one at a time. Educate, Communicate, and what is already available. Maybe doing short video segments of what is good with our outdoor areas and identify key work on some of our hidden secrets. If you have ideas like that, include them in the email that you send to Terri.
- Terri reminded everyone that at the last meeting they were asked to visit the Recreation and Parks website and the Columbia Association website. So, as a work group we would have a better understanding of what those two entities have to offer in the way of outdoor spaces and how it is presented to the community. And what suggestions would we make as to how to get that information out differently to our target population. There are some hidden treasures out there that we are concerned that some of the population (older adults) are not aware of or may not have access to due to transportation or other issues.
- Alice said that Recreation and Parks has their own additional information that is put out for outdoor activities. And Columbia Association also has their own information that they put out. Is there something that consolidates all the outdoor spaces that are available through all of Howard County? The answer is no, not at present.
- Nicola said that the Recreation and Parks does not have a separate place on their website that has a park or trails directory.
- Terri reminded the group that buildings is in this domain as well. One of the things that Marian Vessel brought up at the last meeting was the importance of people who use wheelchairs, walkers and other physical devices being able to use outdoor spaces and public buildings. The buildings built after 1982 will be compliance with the ADA. There are also things beyond accessibility that we should be looking at.
- Don added that we been doing that for many years for commercial structures. That is what the accessibility code provides for. There is not have an accessibility code as relating to many residential buildings; that is where universal design comes in.
- Alice asked if the video about New York was discussed yet. Do we really have a grassroots community outreach connecting people to different programs that are out there? And especially to pockets of people that are not mainstreamed. Having someone to educate and get the word out to those pockets of areas that are currently not receiving or aware of things going on?
- Terri stated weighing into the overall task that we want to look at in the action plan is having the four touch points within the community to get the word out about Age-Friendly.

- Get the word out
- How do we keep people interested?
- How do we get into those smaller areas?
- Nicola asked if the next steps could be emailed out.
- Terri will send out the next steps by email to the group.

Homework Assignments:

- If you have not already, review the Recreation and Parks and Columbia Association websites
- Take time to look at the reports as they relate to outdoor spaces.

Next Meeting:

May 20, 2020 - 9:00 AM