

AGE-FRIENDLY OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS WORKGROUP MINUTES



Date: 03/18/2020

Time: 9:00 AM

Facilitator: Terri Hansen

In Attendance

Mary Pat Donelan

Don Mock

Marian Vessels

Margaret Pittman

Phyllis Meyerson

Ted Meyerson

Matt Madera

Approval of Minutes

First: Don Mock

Second: Mary Pat Donelan

The minutes were approved with the exception to fix Nicola's name as it was spelled wrong.

Announcements

- Terri Hansen welcomes everyone to the WebEx.
- New member – Dr. Margaret Pittman this is her background also is a Licensed Social Worker, Teaching graduates to work with older adults. She has a special affinity towards older adults.
- Will be meeting through WebEx at this point through March and April. Will re-evaluate going forward. Currently have access to audio only. Open to suggestions if anyone is familiar with WebEx.
- We still need co-chairs; Terri Hansen cannot continue to lead any of the groups. If no co-chairs, the group will have to merge with another workgroup.
- Margaret Pittman asked:
 - What does that look like in terms of merging with another group? Are we the smallest of the groups?

- This workgroup currently has 8 members who have consistently attended.
- As a reminder, the role of the co-chairs is to lead the meetings, develop the agendas and keep the group on target.
 - Develop recommendations for the action plan – under outdoor spaces and buildings – (there will be overlap with other domains).
 - Opportunity to meet with other co-chairs to be sure we are working together with little duplication.
 - Attending quarterly meetings with Terri Hansen with other workgroup co-chairs.
 - If you have interest in being a co-chair you can talk to Terri Hansen after the meeting calling or send her an email.
- Terri Hansen will absolutely support the decision of the workgroup.

Discussions

- Terri asked the group to consider What other workgroup could we merge with? None was offered. Not sure any of 8 workgroups will be an easy fit. The other groups are:
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Work and Civic Engagement
 - Social Participation
 - Communication and Information
 - Communication and Health
 - Respect and Social Inclusion
- Terri should be receiving the survey results next week, Over 3,300 responded to the survey.
- Terri needs to review the report, and then will be sent out to all workgroup members for review and comment.
- Charles from Department of Community Resources will be putting together a report of reports, which include the Department of Community Resources and Services 2005, Transportation Development Plan (2018), Columbia Association Plan for Older Adults (2014) and others. It was mentioned that the County’s next General Plan, which is in process, will take us to 2030
- This will be a bedrock of information – a good starting point. Goal should be recognizing the assets and recommendations.
- Advantages of getting a list of recommendations and findings that we can all look at
 - What others recommended that may not have been fully addressed
 - Look at it through an Age-Friendly lens and how might we tweak it.
 - Look what has been tried and didn’t work out and can it be readjusted.
- In a review of the “homework” assignment from last month members were to look at the AARP livability website and to come back with at least 2 or 3 goals/ideas for the workgroup.
- Mary Pat Donelan offered:
 - Educate older adults about the many resources we currently have
 - Publish the wonderful resources we already have
- It was mentioned that Montgomery County seems to need more developing than we do. Our mission should be to educate not develop. Howard County is amazing with how many outdoor resources we have.

- Marian Vessels
 - Increase the knowledge to all County residents of all the existing facilities
 - Enhance the linkage between housing and transportation
- Margaret Pittman agreed with Marian that we need to increase the knowledge and how to determine and make it more appealing. She also offered:
 - Enhance the current resources--there seems to be a disconnect.
 - Increase the outdoor activities to all ages
 - Knowledge and enhancing go together
- Terri Hansen suggested we could think about the non-users and why they are not currently using the outdoor spaces.
 - people don't know
 - cannot get to location
 - Not accessible not ADA acceptable
 - The use of wheelchairs and walkers not easy
- Margaret Pittman thinks that all the above should be addressed
- Matt Madera agrees with the ADA matters for County residents to have access outdoor spaces particularly.
 - R&P is working on an ADA transition plan; ensuring the residents have the access.
 - Need to look at if we have all the outdoor spaces accessible and how far away are some residents from the bigger parks.
- Mentioned at last month's meeting
 - Older adult housing may not be in a good location
 - How far residents are from the bigger parks.
- At the bottom of the agenda today is a link to a presentation from the Director of Recreation and Parks in New York City 2018 at a Livability Conference. Their view of how they make this work in an urbanized area. Please watch this
 - Get out what you think is most important
 - Inclusion - Playgrounds – People of all ability can use
- Matt Madera was also looking at the page that was recommended and stated it has a lot of great ideas.
- As a workgroup you need to come up with a vision statement and where do we go with this statement. Statement should :
 - Be Useful
 - Have Anchor points
 - Help achieve our plan
 - Tell us why we want to do this
 - Address the mission
- Terri Hansen read Fairfax County Vision Statement as an example. The City should be:
 - Clean
 - Public Outdoor spaces
 - Green spaces and much more
- Based on what Terri Hansen read do you have any words for vision statement:
 - Educate
 - Multigenerational
 - Promote or enhance usage

- Accessible
 - Universal access
 - Functional
- Universal access is going beyond what the ADA requirements are:
 - Easy access
 - User friendly
 - Building access
 - Ensuring that there are well designed facilities inside and out.
- Are you all familiar with universal design? After the meeting Terri can send you a link about Universal Design this is beyond what the ADA regulations
- We encounter universal design every day and not even aware of it.
- Words or phrases' that should be in the vision statement:
 - Educate
 - Inspire
 - Promote and enhance resources to ensure easy access and accessibility

Homework

- Go on the Recreation and Parks website and you can see their vision statement, strategic plan and more. Educate yourself as to what is already out there. Use your Age-Friendly lens
 - How do we let everyone know?
 - Remember some people have no access to internet

Next Meeting

04/15/2020 – 9:00am – WebEx (invitation will be sent out by email before the next meeting)