

MINUTES

Age-Friendly Maple Grove
Leadership Team Meeting

Friday, February 11, 2022 | 8:30-10am | via Webex

Attendees: Patty Anderson, Jim Betzold, Liz Faust, Joe Hogeboom, Carrie McLachlan, Lydia Morken, Cheryl Theuninck, Jane Warren, Councilmember Karen Jaeger, Pat Schwalbe

Welcome and Introductions

CROSS Services partner update – Pat Schwalbe

- CROSS just learned from the City that My Ride will continue to serve CROSS for at least another year. This started during COVID and was important to helping ensure that MG residents could access food and services available at CROSS, which is out of My Ride's usual service area. Pat noted that all of our relationships help these things come together.
- CROSS was recently able to purchase a new bus using grant funds. Buses are hard to find and purchase these days due to supply chain issues, but CROSS was able to acquire a bus with assistance from United Bus Sales, where Chuck Schwalbe, Pat's husband and a member of AF MG, works.
 - The bus is intended to replace a van that has seen a lot of good use over the years. It will be used initially for food rescue. It may also be used as a mobile food pantry, as it also has both permanent and fold-up seats and is wheelchair accessible. Its use will evolve over time as it is capable of transporting both food and people. Very exciting acquisition for CROSS.
- On Feb. 28, 11am-9pm, [Great Greek Grill is doing 50% Day](#) as a fundraiser for CROSS. Half of proceeds from dine-in and take-out sales from that day will be donated to CROSS. Great Greek has been a dedicated partner.
- The annual [Empty Bowls event will be held March 10, 2022, 4:30-7:00pm](#) at The Grove Church this year. Additional exhibitors will be included this year.
- Members of AF MG's Community Support & Health Services subcommittee visited CROSS in early February for a tour and to connect with the senior coordinator related to Meals on Wheels. CROSS delivers meals to 12 homes and 14 families, Monday-Friday each week. This hot, nutritious meal is very important to recipients along with a friendly face. Each meal is \$5.50 (with possibility of reduced or no cost).
- Pat and Patty discussed how CROSS is working to dispel common stereotypes about food assistance and food banks. CROSS uses a dignity model where people can shop for what they choose rather than receive a pre-packed box of food. Also, 80% of food provided by CROSS is fresh (fruit, veggies, and meat). Also trying to dispel ideas about who uses food banks. Pat shared an example of a young couple currently utilizing CROSS—the wife is in nursing school, and the husband is in medical school. At this point they have limited income and need some temporary help. People in many different situations utilize CROSS, some for short-term and some for long-term.
- CROSS and AF MG continue to stay connected and look for opportunities to partner in ways that benefit the community.

“Changing the Narrative: Ending Ageism Together” – Style Guidelines for Age-Inclusive Communications – Lydia

- Lydia shared a resource related to avoiding ageist language and images in communications. [Click here](#) to view the document. We should keep all of these in mind when communicating about aging as part of AF MG and in our own orbits, too.
- She also shared two useful resources of age-positive photos that are free to use:
 - [Center for Ageing Better photo library](#) out of the UK
 - [Changing the Narrative](#), a partnership of NextFifty Initiative and Rose Community Foundation, recently held the inaugural REAL (Realistic Examples of Aging in Life) Photo Contest. Images in the [photo library](#) can be downloaded and used for free, and the library will continue to expand.
- She also referenced [Reframing Aging](#), a major initiative that used social science research to examine which messages and language are most effective when working to strengthen public policy and public perceptions related to aging.

Community Needs Assessment (CNA) – Lydia

- Lydia provided an update on the latest work of the CNA Committee based on its February meeting. She shared slides covering two primary areas:
 - An update of the North Memorial and Maple Grove Hospital Community Health Needs Assessments happening this year
 - Carrie clarified that each hospital may identify any number of priorities as part of the CHNA; it need not be three, although both chose three last time around
 - She also noted that priority areas are important because they help determine how sponsorship dollars are spent and directed, so they are important in that way. Liz noted that donations from North Memorial/MG Hospital were what funded the launch of the intergenerational garden last summer.
 - Latest work and discussion on effort to develop a survey to be used as a major element of the CNA.
 - One item is the City of Maple Grove Citizen Survey, conducted 5 years and last conducted in 2016. The City is planning to conduct its next survey in 2022. We will keep this on our radar as something to incorporate into planning and decisions in various ways.
 - [Slides related to the CNA contain more details can be viewed by clicking here.](#)

City Update – Joe Hogeboom

- On Good Morning America yesterday, Joe saw author Arthur Brooks talking about his new book, *From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life*. This may be an interesting resource for AF MG.
 - [View the Good Morning America clip here.](#)
 - [More about the book here.](#)

- Joe shared a master plan for development north of Territorial Road. This area not planned for development until 2030, but Dayton is developing rapidly right now and in doing so putting pressure on the City to plan sooner than anticipated. The plan will likely go before Council in late March/early April. Among other details, Joe noted the following:
 - The development likely will include a new city park (specific location TBD)
 - The City hopes to preserve historically significant elements in that area, such as Pioneer Cemetery and an old school house.
 - A regional trail will run through the area—it starts in the Elm Creek Park Reserve and would run to Crow Hassan Park Reserve.
 - Area may include a senior cooperative—they are trying to site that right now.
 - City hopes to preserve trees and natural spaces, so are factoring that into how single-family home lots are laid out.
 - Area might include single-level townhome homes as well.

There was some discussion of Indigenous history in the area and whether the City was incorporating that into plans and decisions. Joe reported that the City sent out some field researchers to look for evidence of artifacts or burial grounds but did not find any. Most burial grounds located around the lakes. Territorial Road itself is historically significant, originally part of fur trading. There is good information available at the rest stop in Maple Grove. Patty encouraged the full history of the use of that land to be recognized.

Subcommittee Updates

Community Support and Health Services – Patty

- Marie, who has co-chaired this committee, was unable to attend the LT Meeting as she in Chicago for the funeral of a friend. She has lost two friends in recent months and noted that it is causing her to reflect on growing older and what is important.

Transportation – Cheryl

- Cheryl reported that the subcommittee had spent time talking about the survey for the community needs assessment and is thinking about how to approach questions in such a manner that information won't be skewed by COVID impacts. Some questions might be better suited to focus groups.
- This team does want to talk to Mike Opatz at the City about anything he would like in the survey, and to get his thoughts in general.

Housing – Lydia

- The Housing for All Legislative Breakfast will be held virtually on Friday, Feb. 18, 8am-9:30am. Lydia will be sharing a brief presentation on AF MG during partner presentations, and Joe will speak to some items related to housing in MG during the city/elected official portion of the event.
- Anyone interested in attending can register by [clicking here](#).

Communications – Lydia/Liz

- With no Communications subcommittee chair, Liz and Lydia continue to manage the Facebook page and create articles for City Focus. The latest City Focus (spring issue) article discusses the needs assessment.
- Liz reported that we had 194 visitors to the AF MG website this past month.

Partner Updates:

Rotary Club – Jim

- Because of COVID, cancelled steak dinner.
- They continue to run their program at Osseo High School
- Junior Rotarians creating mural at school to show diversity of school. It will be a permanent mural painted on a highly visible wall.
- Talking about end of year banquet for STRIVE students, can we do it inside (with COVID)?

City of MG/Parks and Rec - Liz:

- Liz shared the website related to community input and plans for the community center redesign. It's a great resource for community members who want to keep us with this. The website can be found at <https://www.growingtogethermaplegrove.org/>.

Other updates – Lydia

- The State of Minnesota officially enrolled in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, become the 10th state in the nation to do so.
- Age-friendly legislation that passed in June 2021 provided funding to hire an age-friendly director and to start an age-friendly community grants program. Work on both of those things is happening at the state level, with the director anticipated to be hired this spring and the grants program to launch during the summer.
- There are now 14 cities and counties in the network in MN. Growing quickly.

Next meeting: Friday, March 11, 2022, 8:30-10am