

Minutes
Age-Friendly Maple Grove Leadership Team
October 8, 2021, 8:30am-10am | via Webex

Attending: Jim Betzold, Mark Carpenter, Liz Faust, Lydia Morken, Marie Maslowski, Patty Anderson, Giannina Posner, Deb Scheid, Jeanne McTootle, Cheryl Theuninck, Karen Jaeger, Caitlin Enright, and Tim Conaway

Subcommittee Reports

Transportation – Cheryl

The bench audit is complete and there was a meeting with Ben Jaszewski and Kirsten Banson Weigle to present the audit. The city was happy to receive it and the person from maintenance said that the city's map could be updated in a couple of days. Because the overall findings are on a variety of maps, it would be difficult to present on the website, but Mark will prepare a summary and possibly a simple bench map for posting.

The subcommittee also discussed how to go about the next phase of planning, including soliciting input from the city, and in particular Mike Opatz, who it was announced received an award from the Minnesota Transit Association.

Housing – Lydia

The housing presentation to the City Council is now set for Monday, Oct.18, and is early on the agenda. The presentation takes place in person at City Hall, and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

Housing for All will hold its annual Bus Tour of affordable housing developments in northwest Hennepin County as a virtual event on October 26 from 8:30 – 10 a.m. Lydia will give a 7–10-minute presentation.

Civic and Social Involvement – Liz

AF MG in conjunction with Parks and Rec 55 Forward program had a booth at the Sept. 23 Farmers Market. Liz created a wheel that visitors could spin to select a Trivia Category: AF MG, 55 Forward, Maple Grove History, Maple Grove Parks, Maple Grove Community Center. Quite a few people stopped by and were given literature and explanations about AF MG and 55 Forward. Children liked to spin the wheel, and their parents were interested in the information for their parents.

The Intergenerational Garden was a success and will wrap up 10/14 Liz asked for help with winterizing the 8 garden plots. Giannina said that Three Rivers has naturalists who can help, and she would give Liz the contact information.

Communications – Tim

Tim is seeking someone to take over as chair of the Communications subcommittee.

Tim apologized for not setting up a meeting about the website. The September report showed that visits were down, as well as the duration of visits.

An article was submitted for the Winter edition of City Focus. The article deals with precautions and recommendations for winter safety for older people.

The Community and Health Services Dementia Caregiver Grant Report has been posted on the website.

It was suggested that we have a Zoom interview with a representative from Senior LinkAge Line/Minnesota Board on Aging to talk about Caregiver Consultants, which provide mostly free, one-on-one support, and individualized advice and resources for caregivers. This would be in conjunction with National Family Caregivers Month, which is November.

Community and Health Services – Patty and Marie

A copy of the Dementia Caregivers Grant Report was sent to the nine churches that participated in interviews. Grant organization Trellis (formerly Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging) accepted and appreciated the report.

Patty said it would be great to have a tangible project like the report as we re-evaluate and determine next steps for this subcommittee, which had been focused exclusively on the grant project for the bulk of 2021

On the subject of the impact of language on aging, Patty reported that a student from one of her mindfulness/yoga classes commented, “I don’t care what I am called, I care that I am seen.” Marie added that the mental health and valuing older people should include communication about “not disappearing.” Generating respect and social inclusion for older persons is hard to make actionable. AF MG has been thoughtful about messaging. It was suggested that each of us should say hello in public to older people, engage with retail workers, and so on.

Karen said that it is important to stay busy and to keep going. She will be 90 in March and has remained extremely active and engaged in the community. Jeanne shared that she will be 89 in two weeks. It was agreed that we should be aware of the difference between baked in ideas about how we should feel at a certain age and how we actually feel.

Leadership Team – Mark

Mark Carpenter has been the co-chair of AF MG since 2017. He wants to open that position up to someone else beginning in January. He said the main duties of are keeping up the email list and sending out the meeting agenda and meeting minutes. Co-chairs also participate in meetings with the City and may contribute to or lead presentations on AF MG to the City and/or community partners Mark also manages the budget, but this responsibility doesn’t necessarily have to lie with the co-chair. He will write a description of duties.

News and Updates

Rotary – Rotary is holding a virtual gala on Nov. 13. The Strive program is set up at Osseo and Maple Grove with students from Bethel University helping out. The Junior Rotarians are also set up and operating. Rotary did some road clean-up and some tree planting with the city.

Three Rivers Park District - Giannina reported that the Hispanic Heritage event at Highland Park saw a turn-out of 300 people (up from 75 the previous year). She thanked Hennepin County Public Health and

Maple Grove Hospital for their support. There was a lot of music and dancing representing the various nations and cultures of Central and South America.

City of MG - Karen reported that City Council had been approached by citizens who want to keep chickens at their residential property. Council said no. She reported on the attendance at a vigil at the Angel of Hope Statue at the Arboretum staged by Maria's Voice, a Maple Grove organization that works to counter domestic abuse through education, awareness, and safe action. The Farmers Market will have its last outdoor event on Oct. 21. Shake Shack restaurant has received approval for its liquor license and should be opening soon.

55 Forward - Liz said Fall programs are back nearly in full. They held a Coffee with Cops events and will hold Safety Sessions with police and fire officers. There was also a successful African Drumming session. Liz will be co-presenting with Elyse Ruize from AARP MN and Kelly Mertes from the City of Brooklyn Park about age-friendly communities at the upcoming Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) conference. Liz mentioned that she has received positive comments about the AF MG website from other AF communities.

Lions - Tim reported that the Lions will hold a Waffle Breakfast on Oct. 24, with free KidSight vision screening at the same time. There will also be KidSight at the Community Center Trunk or Treat event on Oct. 30.

Other – Lydia noted that November is National Family Caregiving Month. We should plan to put together a series of Facebook posts related to caregiving and resources and consider other ways to acknowledge caregiving this month.

Next Community Needs Assessment

In the next month, subcommittees should discuss how to approach getting input for the next community needs assessment, which will be conducted in 2022 and will determine priorities and strategies for AF MG's next three-year action plan. This transition to a new cycle of work could also include stepping back to consider restructuring subcommittees and domains based on where there is the greatest need or interest.

Next meeting: Friday, November 12, 8:30-10:00am