

Minutes
Age-Friendly Maple Grove Leadership Team
May 14, 2021, 8:30am-10am | via Webex

Attending: Mark and Nancy Carpenter, Cheryl Theuninck, Karen Jaeger, Jim Betzold, Patty Anderson, Tim Conaway, Marie Maslowski, Jeanne McTootle, Lydia Morken, Jane Warren, Joe Hogeboom.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Communications – Tim**

- May – Older Americans Month activities have included: newspaper ad and flyer, article, restaurant discounts blog, May 55 Forward programming opportunity highlights, Facebook posts throughout the month. Lydia added that the Facebook trend is continuing upward, currently close to 150 followers, with restaurant discounts post receiving over 300 views and 55 Forward May programming over 1000 views.
- Osseo-Maple Groves Press ad featuring AF-MG and Older Americans Month was published. Tim researching new topic for June ad.
- Tim drafted an AF-MG blog on the Maple Grove Lions project regarding plastic film collection for recycling.
- Future subcommittee discussion point: AF MG might consider providing regular updates on its work to HOAs, faith communities, etc. to keep those groups informed of our work as well as to engage them. To be continued.

- **Transportation – Cheryl**

- Subcommittee work continues with Mike Opatz. Much is dependent upon legislative action and budgetary process.
- A bench audit is being conducted to assess whether additional benches are needed in key locations in the community. As in the walking audit, AF-MG will work jointly with the City, subcommittee, and the public/community volunteers to inventory existing benches and develop an action plan.
 - Patty spoke of some of the history of bench positioning in the city, and Joe said it might be possible to use geocoder mobile devices (GPS technology) that were originally purchased and used for an effort allowing community volunteers to gather and share location data of ash trees related to emerald ash borer infestation. Joe will follow up with more information.
 - There also was discussion about design of existing benches (how much variation is there in the design/types of benches currently in place around the city?) and the importance of bench design in making them easily usable for the greatest number of people. Attendees noted features such as bench heights, arm rests, etc.
 - Joe noted there may be a possibility for AF MG to give input into the new benches that will be located on Main Street as part of the Main Street redesign.

- The idea was raised that, going forward, all city benches—including those installed as part of bench sponsorships—adhere to certain age-friendly design requirements.
 - More to come on benches in future meetings of the Transportation subcommittee and Leadership Team.

- **Community and Health Services – Patty and Marie**
 - Dementia Grant – Patty and Marie shared an update. There have been 41 responses thus far to the Community Member Dementia Survey and it has been very interesting to review data so far. To get additional responses, reminders/second requests will be sent to the AF MG email list as well as posted on Facebook with a May 24 deadline.
 - The grant action team will soon be moving into the next phase of the project, which involves interviewing faith communities/church leaders about what they currently observe among their members concerning dementia and caregiving, and types of support that they might offer. Two-person teams will conduct and record information, and Patty requested volunteers from the Leadership Team to help with the process. Marie commented that it should be fun and easy to do the interviews using the questions provided, and that people should not feel intimidated. All Leadership Team members and those receiving the minutes are invited to participate in these interviews! Contact Patty at pma501957@gmail.com if you are interested.
 - Patty thanked Joe for providing a list of 32 faith communities within Maple Grove.
 - Discussion followed regarding how to engage older adults of different racial, ethnic, and cultural communities for the survey, as well as in general for AF MG. Joe shared that Maple Grove’s East Indian population is in the top 10 per capita nationally, which is related to the construction of the Hindu Temple in Maple Grove. He said he could help make a connection with that community and AF MG. Lydia commented that perhaps if connections or relationships are established as part of this faith communities dementia work, AF-MG could perhaps utilize those relationships when it undertakes its second Community Needs Assessment in the next year or so. We were able to have a Russian-speaking focus group for our first assessment in 2017, but it would be terrific to engage, learn from, and support other cultural communities, as well.

- **Civic and Social– Liz – Nancy presented in Liz’s absence (group met 5/7)**

Agenda focused on two current action plan goals and activities related.

 - Goal 4.1 Connect older adults to other people, information, and other resources.
 - d. Develop intergenerational programming around healthy food using the farmers’ market and community garden(s).
 - Farmer’s Market -- back to outdoor location as of 5/13, Thursdays from 3-7. CROSS will not have a booth this year to allow for more vendor space; but a CROSS rep will come to the market to collect extra/unsold food that vendors choose to give and receive credit for. Nancy talked about the Facebook post

regarding flower bouquets also being distributed by CROSS to visiting clients.

Flowers are donated mainly from Trade Joe's – thx!

- Intergenerational Garden – This new program will be held Thursdays from 4-5pm from May through October.
 - The program is a partnership between the Teen Center and the Senior Center with support from Age-Friendly Maple Grove.
 - The kickoff meeting will be Thursday, May 20. The program is free to join, but registration is required. (Class #31309-01)
 - Bobby Jensen from Grow with KARE, KARE 11 TV will be at the launch event on May 20.
 - The garden will use raised beds. All supplies have been obtained, with some donated by Lowe's
 - The project would appreciate any Master Gardener help!
 - All Leadership Team members and those receiving meeting minutes are invited to the kickoff!

- Goal 5.1 Connect older adults with volunteer opportunities.

c. Identify local, regional, and national volunteer networks that could be (better) utilized as source of quality volunteer opportunities. Including volunteering that could be done from home.

Team identified five volunteer opportunity groups to first investigate to obtain potential volunteer possibilities and important information on how to get involved. (City of Maple Grove, District 279 Schools, Three Rivers Parks, Maple Grove Community Organization, CROSS). Assignments made. Subcommittee members will report findings to Liz by 5/28 and provide group contacts with AF-MG info.

- Nancy summarized a report from Giannina regarding Three Rivers Parks. Both a special Mother's Day event and Nature Walk occurred recently at Elm Creek Park Reserve. Many events continue to be added and large numbers are enjoying the outdoors at Three Rivers Parks. Future programming includes the implementation of engagement events for Latino Seniors to encourage outdoor connections within Three Rivers Parks. First plan includes offering this program to two groups of 10 Latino older adults. Visit Three Rivers' Parks website for lots of info. threeiversparks.org
- With the CDC update yesterday proposing less restrictions regarding facemasks, it will be a very busy time to make adjustments in city, CROSS and Three Rivers Parks offerings/attendance capacities. Keep watching for the latest updates regarding Covid protocols.

- **Housing – Lydia**

- Lydia – Housing brief was officially submitted to the City on May 3. The timeline was extended, which allowed for one additional round of Leadership Team review and input via email.
- Joe noted that City Council recently received hard copies of the brief.

- AF MG will have an opportunity to meet with City Council during a Council work session over the summer, likely after July 4. Council is looking forward to AF MG input related to senior housing.
- **Fundraising/Budgeting – Mark**
 - Mark reviewed the budget spreadsheet. Income for the year is \$5,000 higher than expected due to a larger carryover from prior year with careful spending and three past donors (MG Hospital, M Health Fairview, and SilverCreek on Main) giving very appreciated contributions this year. Expenses were budgeted at \$21,500 and are on track for that amount through April. Additional expenses may arise when COVID restrictions loosen and in-person gatherings allow for social events, a community project, etc.
 - Lydia noted that we may need to plan for possible costs associated with the upcoming community needs assessment and should keep that in mind.

Other News and Updates

- Jim – Maple Grove Rotary
 - Third Annual Ethics Workshop for emerging high school leaders (virtual this week)
 - Many environmental projects including Earth Day Storm Day clean up, tree and blvd. plantings.
- Tim – Maple Grove Lions
 - Environmental projects include cleaning up part of Jefferson highway: joint effort with Maple Grove Rotary upcoming to plant trees; recycling plastic film project with Trex challenge.
 - Looking for more collection sites for recycling project. Email Tim at mctimc@gmail.com
 - Half Marathon 5/15, Tim organizing 70+ volunteers and 40 Leo high school/college volunteers.
 - Golf Fundraiser June 14th at Pheasant Acres. Register at maplegrovelions.org
- Joe H. – City of Maple Grove
 - Several new neighborhoods are in the process of planning/approval/building.
 - New senior market-rate apartments approved near Maple Grove Hospital.
 - Will receive an update/expansion plan in the summer from Maple Grove Hospital.
 - Main Street redesign project plan progressing (Elm Creek Blvd. to City Hall). City is hoping that the three main property owners on the strip will agree to contribute to some of the costs associated with the redesign.
 - New restaurant – Shake Shack – will be built near Red Lobster.
 - Chalkfest will be held Labor Day Weekend this year at same site as last year (Town Green)
 - I-94 under construction this year; freeway soundwalls being constructed with Maple Leaf art.
 - Discussion held regarding the lack of affordable housing for older adults in Maple Grove.

Year 2 Progress Report – Lydia

- Report complete, awaiting city approval before publicly sharing.

- A roll-out plan was discussed. Lydia shared an initial list of potential recipients, and team members added several other ideas. Accompanying letters will be customized to give information and thanks for support of the AF-MG initiative.

Next meeting is Friday, June 11, 2021.