

Minutes
Age-Friendly Maple Grove Leadership Team
August 13, 2021, 8:30am-10am | via Webex

Attending: Mark and Nancy Carpenter, Kris Orluck, Liz Faust, Cheryl Theuninck, City Councilmember Karen Jaeger, Marie Maslowski, Pat and Chuck Schwalbe, Jim Betzold, Patty Anderson, Tim Conaway, Lydia Morken, Caitlin Enright.

Subcommittee Reports:

Communications – Tim

- Website traffic down in July to 195 users. Positive note is that 63% of users are coming directly to the site. July ad in Osseo-Maple Grove Press featured the website, which may lead to an increase in new users.
- An in-person AF-MG website review will be held at a time TBD after Labor Day at the Community Center.
- Discussion was held regarding the City's new website, which just went live this week. Lydia asked if AF-MG website would need to update to new URLs. In a quick test, Liz said there would need to be some work done to continue connections/links. Kris volunteered to take on the project, will check with Julie from Avallo and make needed changes. Thank you!
- Tim reported on the great success of the Maple Grove Lions Club TREX Plastic Film Recycling Challenge. To receive a free TREX bench, participating groups must collect 500 lbs. of qualifying recyclable materials in six months. Lions, through Tim's leadership, located several significant drop off points, including the entrance to the Community Center, collected over 500 pounds in the FIRST MONTH and are approaching 4000 pounds HALFWAY through the challenge! Lions generously plan to donate the TREX bench to the city/place TBD. Liz offered to connect the Lions to Ben Jaszewski, Parks & Rec Director. Tim said that Lions can sign up again for another six-month challenge/bench reward. See attached for chart of items accepted for recycling at the Community Center entrance and many locations around Maple Grove. Congrats and thanks given to Maple Grove Lions and to Tim for his project leadership from AF-MG team leadership members.

Transportation – Cheryl

- Cheryl was very pleased with the articles about the new Maple Grove Transportation HUB that appeared in the Minneapolis Star Tribune and Osseo Maple Grove Press. She praised both Mike Opatz and the City of Maple Grove for this project and continual innovations that are helping Maple Grove citizens get to their destinations via many means conveniently.
- Team to meet with Mobility 4 All – date TBD.
- Mark reported on the bench audit project. Tim created maps for volunteers to refer to identifying existing benches per type in sections of Maple Grove. Audits divided into two groupings:

- 1st – 11 sections more geared to bikers because of length; 2nd – 51 local parks for all
- Thus far, volunteer requests for auditing have been sent by Mark to Team Leadership and by Liz to the Biking Group. These will be followed with Nordic Walkers by Liz and Facebook request next. Mark expressed appreciation to those who have volunteered. If you are Interested contact Mark at vikesfan321@gmail.com.

Housing – Lydia

- Lydia reported that highlights of the Housing Brief will be presented at the City Council meeting on Monday, September 7th, 7:30 p.m. Leadership team members invited to attend. Topic will be at the beginning of the evening’s agenda and participants can leave at the end of the presentation if desired.

Community and Health Services – Patty/Marie

- ACT on Alzheimer’s Grant – Patty reported on progress.
- Community surveys completed.
- Team members are reaching out to interview faith community leaders/asking for assistance in making connections. Please review attached list. If you are a member or know someone team members could connect with to facilitate a leadership conversation, please contact Patty at pma501957@gmail.com.
- Preliminary information will be presented at September AF-MG meeting; formal report to Trellis (formerly MAAA), granting agency, due by the end of September.
- Patty and team are very optimistic about the information gathered and its importance in the future of supporting members of our community regarding dementia.

Civic and Social – Liz

- Liz reported that the Intergenerational Garden Club is a success! Lydia requested pics to post.
- Volunteer Resource Guide flyer currently on Facebook, at National Night Out day event and included at Senior Center with all printed AF-MG items. More distribution to follow—TBD.
- Giannina (absent) reported at the Civic and Social meeting that it has been a very busy summer in Hennepin Parks. Great attendance and participation at the Parks. She just finished leading a program that took place in June, July, August that introduced Latino older adults to the Parks system with many activities, many for the first time. Was very successful with much learned and lots of interest in participants returning to the parks. Giannina gave a six-question survey upon completion. She is very appreciative to both Hennepin Parks and Maple Grove Hospital for their sponsorships and would like to copy this experience next year with other underserved senior community groups.
Giannina and Liz also discussed their desire to partner in some different areas of programming involving both 55 Forward and Hennepin Parks on a topic or activity/event.
Ex. Nordic walking group
- **CROSS – Pat Schwalbe/crossservices.org update**
 - Fill the Backpacks program was a great success!

- CROSS Charity Golf Tournament will be held Sunday, September 19th. Online registration.
- First-time Event: The Amazing FUN'd Race for CROSS – Saturday, 10/2/21 – see website.

Other News and Updates

Jim – Maple Grove Rotary

- Maple Grove Days 13th annual Bed Races were held on July 17th to support CROSS services/proceeds will be used to build beds for children. Jim reported there was great fun with enthusiastic teams, club member support and audience participation! Thank you, Rotarians!
- The Junior Rotarian program will begin again with returning and new members after school starts in the fall.
- The very successful STRIVE program will add college student mentors this year.

Tim C. – Maple Grove Lions

- Maple Grove Days
 - Even with a new lot location, the Corn Feed and lunch was a great success! Hot day!
 - Many children participated in Vision Screening provided by the Lions with no touch/high tech equipment. MGrove Lions will be screening every day at the MN State Fair in the Kare 11 building. Thank you, Lions!
- The Leos program will begin when school is back in session with returning and new members.
- Concert on the Lawn will be held September 17th and 18th at Maple Grove Central Park, 12000 Central Park Way, Maple Grove. Tickets can be purchased online for one or both nights on their website. Full information available at maplegrovelions.org.

Both Lions and Rotarians have been doing environmental projects and are looking for more ideas to expand their community outreach on this topic. Marie will send Jim and Tim the name of a Hennepin County Environmental Testing Dept. expert to contact regarding lake quality, etc.

Pat Schwalbe described the CROSS Toy Shop, held in December with volunteers, as a perfect opportunity for student Leos and Jr. Rotarians to participate. She will continue to follow up with Jim and Tim regarding potential participation/timeframes that could work.

Liz – City of Maple Grove

- Fall brochure is online. Full range of offerings.
- Senior Center area has been rearranged. No formal computer lab equipment/room. Liz and Becky's office space has been relocated.
- The pie shop in the Senior Center was very successful!
- Tim complemented Liz and the MGCO for arranging and getting sponsors donations for the great Hospitality Room for volunteers, giving them a chance to get out of the heat and enjoy some refreshments.

Caitlin – Beehive

- Thanked Liz for opportunities to partner with MG Parks & Rec on activities for their residents.
- Upcoming Alzheimer fundraisers at Beehive:
 - 9/12 – Music, car show, etc.
 - 9/18 – 10:30 - Alzheimer’s Walk for residents and community at Beehive
 - More information to follow/will distribute as received.
- Tim from Maple Grove Lions asked about Leos participating in a service project at Beehive as in the past. He and Caitlin will connect on opportunities as they arise.

Councilmember Karen Jaeger – City of Maple Grove

- Reported that over 190 neighborhood parties were held on National Night Out.
- Recapped water restrictions in the city.
- Updated retail and residential planning.
- Described Rice Lake area benches/Mark will follow up.

Lydia

- Let everyone know that AARP Minnesota has asked for 5 profiles of communities that have successfully launched an Age-Friendly initiative. The five communities are Maple Grove, Northfield, Minneapolis, Alexandria, and Brooklyn Park.
- The Age-Friendly Minnesota website has a community survey that takes about 20 minutes to fill out. All are welcome to participate. We may possibly want to roll out something like this in our community.
- This website also has a toolkit of focus group questions that we may to review prior to next year.

Lydia thanked all for attending.

Marie ended the meeting on a very positive note regarding her excitement about both the AF-MG work that has exploded in the state of MN and her pride in being in such an active group!
Thanks, Marie, for this and all your contributions to our success!

Next meeting is Friday, September 11, 2021.