

Beaverton Committee on Aging
Summary of Monthly Meeting
May 10, 2016

Welcome and introductions – Chair Sky Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:34 PM

Approval of April Minutes – A correction on the spelling of Laurel Reilly’s name was requested by Regina Ford, motion for minutes to be approved with said correction was seconded and approved.

Guests: Rich Carson and Caron Carter – representing the Washington County Council on Aging
Alice Collier – Beaverton Resident
Tom Freitag - Beaverton Resident
Debbie Cahill – AARP
Laurel Reilly – Former BCOA Chair
Kirk Foster - Wapato Shores - Invited Speaker

Guest Comment Period: Each guest introduced themselves to the group. Community member Rich Carson and Carol Carter requested that BCOA consider merging with their group. The two discussed a benefactor that contributes funds to help people in crisis situations. Chair Johnson said that the two groups might have some opportunity for alignment. City Liaison, Jim Brooks suggested that the conversation be tabled at the current meeting and that a future meeting be scheduled outside of the committee meeting to discuss the subject.

Guest Speaker:

Kirk Foster with Wapato Shores –Wapato Shores provides accessible transportation. The company currently has 38 accessible vans that do primarily medical transportation. Wapato Shores provides ADA commercially accessible vehicles – with 600 pound combined weight limit (weight of the patient and the equipment combined) they have eight bariatric lifts in service currently. Funding comes through Ride Connection, and medical funding such as Medicaid and private insurance. Foster sits on the Portland City advisory board on transportation. Funding is limited; the cost is roughly 280% more to run the wheelchair accessible vans than basic public transportation vehicles. Foster stated his concern with the fact that most Oregon drivers providing transportation are contract drivers and as such they tend to prefer less problematic fares over a wheelchair transportation fare. Foster believes that some sort of back-end subsidy program needs to be developed so that a fee is collected on every ride that could financially support the need for more transportation. “Cab companies cannot absorb the costs when dealing with contractors.” Wapato Shores provides 320 rides a day and turn down about 100. AMR (American Medical Response) has absorbed the CCO for contract for Medicaid in the Metro area. The need in the area is increasing and Wapato Shores has added extra staff to call each ride the day prior to the ride. Riders must provide a statement that the rider cannot utilize a standard public transportation option. All drivers run through a background check, DHS has two mandated courses, passenger assistance and a defensive driving class. First aid and CPR is also required of drivers. A typical van can accommodate a 500 pound capacity and 24” wide wheelchair. Wapato Shores has a \$25 base rate and \$2.50 per mile, but has limited availability for private reservations.

Beaverton Community Vision Partner Celebration: The BCOA sent two representatives, Jo Anne Baumann and Suzanne Vanslyke to the meeting held at the Beaverton City Library. Jo Anne Baumann reported that the event was very insightful and each table had a different topic. Safety, security, loneliness are all issues that need to be addressed for the senior population. The Beaverton Community Vision has many directives that align with the mission of the BCOA. Suzanne stated that she gained insight from meeting and believes that Viva Village can be a

help in many areas. Council Liaison Cate Arnold stated that Visioning Advisory Committee received input from 5700 people in the community and created the action plan based on the results of the surveys and outreach. The BCOA invests work in six target areas of the Action Plan. BCOA Chair Sky Johnson reported that subcommittees had been established to address the target areas:

Subcommittee on Housing: Regina Ford reported that the group met and they contacted the City of Beaverton to look at the data from the outreach for the Community Vision goals. Ford would like to see the committee have a more comprehensive survey with detailed demographics included. Liaison Brooks stated that the focus of the goals were by design general, and that the committee could choose topics within the general framework that they would like to explore. Brooks said he would find out what it would cost to add a survey as an insert into the city newsletter. Council Liaison Cate Arnold agreed that demographics were not the central function of the outreach; the city was looking for feedback and direction. The housing subcommittee would like to see a more detailed community survey addressing housing needs. Some frustration was felt on the part of some members of the committee around funding.

Resource Guide/ Speakers – Jo Ann Baumann requested that a calendar be set up where each BCOA member would contribute an article to the Resource Guide.

- June: Suzanne Vanslyke – Topic: Shared Housing
- July: Sky Johnson – Topic: Arthritis
- August: Pam Rinehart – Topic: Summer related article
- September: Beverly Sali – Topic: Fall Prevention
- October: Jeff Menzel– Topic: Men’s Health.

Liaison Report – Jim Brooks: No report

Meeting Adjourned: 4:03 pm.

Members in Attendance: Sky Johnson, Beverly Sali, Suzanne Vanslyke, Cathy Doyle, Peggy Gordon, Jeff Menzel, Pam Rinehart, Shannon Wiseman, Regina Ford, Jo Anne Baumann, Sally Furman (Alternate)

Staff Liaison - Jim Brooks

City Council Liaison - Cate Arnold

Members not in Attendance: Will Anderson