

**BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
MINUTES**

September 5<sup>th</sup> 2019  
8:30-10:30am

North Bellevue Community Center

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Hannah Kimball, Michelle Trimble, Jeanne Grote, Jullie Gray, Janet Jelleff, Phyllis Smilen, Janet Zielasko, Berta Seltzer, Diana Thompson, Beverly Heyden, Desiree Leigh, Bill Merriman, Christy Stangland
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gazel Tan, Judy Dowling,
- STAFF PRESENT:** Dan Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services
- GUESTS:** Joanne Gainen, Deana Edison, Russ Cufano,
- RECORDING SECRETARY:** Abby Burdick/Bellevue Parks & Community Services
- WELCOME AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order by Hannah Kimball and roll call taken.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Changes identified to the 8-1-2019 minutes. Changes noted, made and approved.

Public Comment made by Joanne Gainen with Eastside Neighbors Network.  
Next ENN program is Advocating for your own Healthcare. September 11<sup>th</sup> at the DT Library.

**PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION:**

Mark Smutny, Sound Generations Operations Manager of Hyde Shuttles. Presentation and discussion around Bellevue Transportation.

Hyde Shuttles provides door-to-door van service for older adults and adults with disabilities throughout many communities in King County. The friendly, specially-trained drivers transport riders to hot meal programs, medical appointments, senior centers, grocery stores and other local destinations. For those who have difficulty getting around, the service provides an opportunity to socialize and stay active within their communities.

The Hyde Shuttle program was created in 1997 and is named in honor of Lillian May Hyde, a longtime Seattle resident whose generous bequest provides funding for the Hyde Shuttles and aids countless seniors and people with disabilities in our community. Through our partnership with King County Metro, the Washington State Department of Transportation and Aging and Disability Services, *we now have 38 vans on the road!*

All aged 55 and older, people living with disabilities, riders living within one of our neighborhood service areas are eligible for Hyde Shuttle services. The service is Free.

Hyde Shuttles operate in the following cities and neighborhoods:

- ✓ Beacon Hill – Southeast Seattle
- ✓ Burien – Highline
- ✓ Central Seattle (First Hill, Capitol Hill, Central Area and the International District)
- ✓ Des Moines – Normandy Park
- ✓ Federal Way
- ✓ Northeast Seattle
- ✓ Northwest Seattle
- ✓ Queen Anne/Magnolia/Interbay
- ✓ Renton
- ✓ SeaTac/Tukwila
- ✓ Shoreline – Lake Forest Park
- ✓ Snoqualmie Valley
- ✓ West Seattle
- ✓ Auburn

80 million baby boomers are deep in the process of retiring and by 2030 the population of people who need transportation other than through private cars is going to increase by 35%. About 600,000 older adults stop driving every year in this country, and yet the amount of resources going into public transportation and paratransit is essentially fixed.

There are 63 people staffed as a part of the Hyde Shuttle Program. 48 of them are drivers. The program had 48 Shuttle Vans ranging in 22-24 ft long. The Hyde Shuttle Program leases vans from King County Metro for \$0 and they are all equipped with wheel chair lifts.

The Shuttle Vans are divided into 2 basic kind of services:

#1 is a demand response where you call in or e-mail in and you request a ride and they try to accommodate

#2, there are 11 Shuttle Vans that are fixed route delivering meals and supporting nutrition programs.

The Hyde Shuttle is not a Commuter Service meaning the Hyde Shuttle doesn't travel across municipal boundaries, and in Seattle there are certain 'zones.

The Hyde Shuttle is piloting a program where they are transporting persons that need dialysis in South King County.

The Hyde Shuttle Program DOES NOT CURRENTLY OFFER ITS SERVICES IN BELLEVUE. What can BNOA and Mark do to help change that?!

September 23<sup>rd</sup> there is a Planning Meeting with Leadership in Transportation and Human Service and Advocacy Groups to start crafting a strategy to expand this program into Bellevue.

Diana Thompson asked the question. . .what a step-by-step process is to get the Hyde Shuttle in the City of Bellevue. This was a summary of Mark's response:

*Organize a Summit, where the purpose is to organize a diverse constituency into two or three strategic goals (that takes about 4 hours). At the summit you include people like BNOA, city staff in both the Transportation and Human Services department, invite elected people from Bellevue City Council, but then also think imaginatively and invite different culture groups and constituents, such as the South Asian community. Invite the County, specifically the leadership in Metro. After creating your roster of invitees, work on answering the questions "what bold steps do we need to take in 2020 to fully implement a vision of paratransit services for seniors, persons with disabilities and others with special needs?". The outcome of this Summit would be a workplan. Once the Workplan is developed a small group is formed to craft advocacy.*

Mark's non-profit and the North Shore Senior Transportation program and the Sno-valley transportation program are in the process of acquiring brand new scheduling software that will allow more riders on each shuttle van through GPS technology.

Mark is not opposed to charging a small fee (i.e. \$1/ride) to riders to supplement a source or capital.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Advocacy Committee (Diana)**

A discussion with Marvin Eng, an Aide of Congressman Smith's office, in July provided the Aide with a lively discussion involving all the BNOA Federal agenda information.

#### *Discussion of Universal Design:*

Diana began the discussion by mentioning that through her research she was, so far, only able to find Sacramento, Berkeley, Fremont, Irvine, Arvada CO with any kind of requirements at all.

The committee split up cities across the U.S. to gather information on universal design.

City Planner Janet Lewine will be invited to the September advocacy meeting in Kirkland. All BNOA members were invited to attend.

The committee held a discussion of what the perception of universal design vs. the Americans with Disabilities Act is and how the law affects what the committee should pursue as a focus for advocacy. The committee questioned whether to add the universal design concept to the BNOA advocacy agenda. It was decided to continue information gathering and likely it will be voted in as an agenda item at the January 2020 retreat.

#### *Discounts for Seniors – Gold Card Concept*

Michele reported that City of Bellevue or Bellevue Chamber do not have a senior discount program, or even listing for businesses that offer senior discounts but they would be open to

talking about it. Hannah stated that it appears the Gold Card in Seattle only honored businesses that provided the discounts every day of the week. It was decided the task was not for the BNOA Advocacy Committee to pursue.

#### **Outreach Committee (Hannah)**

The Farmer's Market event was an overall success. The \$5 coupons, (sponsored by North Bellevue Community Center's Advisory Board) given out to aging attendees were well received with at least one elderly couple thrilled that they had enough for an extra little treat at the Fair. The jazz band, Sounds of Swing, were brought in by invitation of the BNOA and were very well received. Information was disseminated and plans are in the works to bring more active vendors to the next year's aging adult day at the Bellevue Farmer's Market. The next large outreach event is the Chinese Information Service Center Health Fair to be held at North Bellevue Community Center on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Transportation & Housing Committee (Hannah)**

NBCC originally scheduled for a Hopelink Mobility Coffee Talk in the May/June 2019 time frame, but personnel and org changes have moved the Bellevue Mobility Coffee Talk to the fall/winter time frame. First planning meeting for the Bellevue Mobility Coffee Talk will be at Hopelink's Bellevue office, 148th and Main, 1 - 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27th.

According to Mayme at Kin On, a coalition for co-housing is forming on the Eastside. Housing/Transportation will follow up.

As we struggle with convenient transportation options for older adults, we repeatedly bump up against the question "how many of Bellevue's older adults are isolated/restricted due to lack of accessible, convenient transportation?" How do we find them, so we know the dimension of our perceived problem? Meals on Wheels? City demographer Gwenn Rousseau? Phyllis will start inquiry with Gwenn.

#### **COMMITTEE PARTNERSHIP REPORTS:**

##### **Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (Hannah)**

Bellevue Mobility Coffee Talk is planned for October at the North Bellevue Community Center. *The Mobility Coffee Talk Series are events to talk about different ways to get around safely without a car. The purpose is to raise awareness of the existing transportation options and resources in the community. These events are held in a social, interactive atmosphere that's tailored to a geographic region and cultural inclusion. In addition to sharing transportation options relevant to the audience, the event allows attendees to share feedback with transportation staff and foster group discussion about what else is needed to get around town. A post-survey sheds light on whether the event was effective in improving transportation options for the attendees.*

**Aging & Disability Services Advisory Council** *(no report)*

**Washington Senior Lobby** *(Diana)*

The annual Fall Senior Lobby Day in Tacoma will be held October 24<sup>th</sup>. Diana will be attending and encouraged other BNOA members to attend. Dan indicated he would be able to pay for two members to attend. Desiree and Michele would like to attend.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**STAFF REPORT** *(Dan)*

A reminder to the BNOA was stated concerning September being recruiting month. Five positions are currently opened to be filled. Everyone was encouraged to gather applications. Beverly, Gazel, Phyllis and Michele will be doing the recruitment interviews.

An Ad Hoc committee was suggested to examine how to work current members in to the three-year cycle of term limits without putting the group in danger of having limited members in the next three years. Hannah said she would assist Dan in developing a plan. No Ad Hoc.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am