

Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County

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MONTHLY MEETING SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

City of Seattle	King County	United Way
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vacant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Hurst, Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diane Snell	<input type="checkbox"/> Julie Peterson	<input type="checkbox"/> Thelma Pegues
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Pierre Loebel	<input type="checkbox"/> Silversity Madrazo, Member-at-large	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jonathan Wanagat
<input type="checkbox"/> Tim Burgess, elected official	<input type="checkbox"/> Kaylene Moon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Moreland
<input type="checkbox"/> Marie Cook	<input type="checkbox"/> Rose Finnegan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Pitruzzello
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Houston Brown,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art Mussman, V Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Miller, AC Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Gross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Slaminko	<input type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jacqueline Deerr-Lord	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cathy VonWald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Astle-Raaen

Excused Absence	Dr. Pierre Loebel, Tim Burgess, Marie Cook, Silversity Madrazo, Dr. Jonathan Wanagat, Midge Levy, Rose Finnegan, Midge Levy, Kaylene Moon, Thelma Pegues, Dr. Johathan Wanagat
Guests:	Jennifer Wieland, Peg Staeheli
ADS Staff	Karen Winston, Doug Ricker, Gigi Meinig, Maria Langlais, Hector Sidoine, Rosemary Cunningham
United Way Staff	Linda Woodall
King County Staff	
City of Seattle	Pamela Piering, Betsy Graef (for Tim Burgess),

MINUTES

Michael Miller, Chair, welcomed Advisory Council members and ADS staff to the meeting. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:



Program
Healthy Aging and the Built Environment:
Possibilities for Seattle's Future

Michael Miller, Advisory Council Chair introduced the two speakers:

Peg Staeheli

Peg is President of SvR Design Company, specializing in environmentally responsible design. She is a registered landscape architect with 30 years of experience and holds a degree in landscape architecture from Washington State University.

Peg brings extensive design experience in pedestrian facilities for urban and residential projects throughout Seattle and the Puget Sound Region. Her projects have improved pedestrian safety and enhanced or preserved the natural environment. She is currently leading the development of Seattle's Pedestrian Master Plan.

Jennifer Wieland

Jennifer is an Associate Transportation Planner in the Policy and Planning Division of the Seattle Department of Transportation and is a member of the project team for the Pedestrian Master Plan. Jennifer has a bachelor's degree in International Relations and Russian from Knox College (in Galesburg, Illinois). She recently finished master's degrees in Transportation Planning and Public Health at the University of North Carolina. Prior to joining SDOT, Jennifer worked as a research associate for several UNC professors and completed internships with the Pedestrian Bicycle Information Center and the Chicago Transit Authority.

Presentation:

(The power point is posted on the Advisory Council website
<http://www.agingkingcounty.org/advisory-council/minutes.htm>)

Urban planners improve accessibility and safety for all users of the pedestrian environment. The presentation covered four important topics

1. Skills for Safe Walking
2. Walking for Healthy and Vibrant communities
3. Examples from the Built Environment
4. Seattle's Pedestrian Master Plan goals.

The skills for safe walking highlighted a number of potentially dangerous situations resulting from poor designs. According to Peg, awareness of potential safety issues reduces the number of car/pedestrian crashes. She gave examples of how pedestrians can remain safe.

- *Intersections* – Peg showed examples of unsafe intersections where pedestrians must remain aware of their surroundings.

- *Vehicles turning through crosswalks* Pedestrians were advised to take control of the situation by catching the driver's eye or wait for the car to pass before proceeding. Assume you are not seen.
- *Backing vehicles* Large parking lots or driveways place pedestrians in an unsafe situation because drivers may not see walkers. This places the burden on the walker to be aware of backing vehicles especially where the drivers sight is limited.
- *Drivers with limited visibility* At night or during dark rainy conditions walkers must be aware.
- *Driver distractions are increasing.* Wear light, reflective clothing especially at night.
- *To much trust in the system* Instead pedestrians must anticipate driver behavior and make sure they are seen. Best practice includes stopping before crossing, especially if the driver is aggressive or does not appear to see the pedestrian.
- *Other suggestions* include Select safe routes, cross at safe intersections, maintain alertness, walk in groups to give greater visibility, and report issues you encounter such as broken sidewalks to local authorities. In Seattle call 206-684-ROAD.

Health and Safety

The presentation highlighted the important health benefits of walking, and the positive effects on an urban environment when people are out of their cars. Benefits include: better individual health which delays chronic diseases, pollution reduction, increased safety, and positive economics. Bustling sidewalk cafes and businesses bring people into the city. As more people find it's a good place to live, housing and public transportation options increase.

Examples of the built environment

Peg explained there is a tension between design and function. She showed examples of good design and bad design and critiqued how even a good design may need improvements to become functional and accessible to everyone. Good design and function protect pedestrians. Poor design places pedestrians at risk. Positive design features of the built environment include the addition of curb bulbs, and raised cross walks which allows traffic to slow before the cross walk. Benches, trees and vegetation in the right of way makes the streets safer and the surroundings pleasant.

Seattle's Master Plan Goal and Action Steps

Goal: Make Seattle the Most Walkable City in the Nation

Seattle plans to meet the goal through the following action steps;

Safety: Reduce the number and severity of crashes involving pedestrians

Equity: Make Seattle a more walkable city through equity in public engagement, service delivery and capital investments.

Vibrancy: Develop a pedestrian environment that sustains healthy communities and supports a vibrant economy

Health: Raise awareness of the important role of walking in promoting health and preventing disease.

Questions

Question: Does Seattle plan to place hand rails or benches on steep, sloping sidewalks?

Answer: Yes, DOT is considering alternatives for Seattle's steeper sidewalks.

Question: Will the City stop bicyclists from chaining bikes to hand rails?

Answer: DOT will contact the Cascade bicycle Club to find a solution.

Question: What is the City doing about uneven sidewalks due to tree roots?

Answer: The City uses alternative material over tree roots – rubber sidewalks or gravel on trails. When new trees are added to the environment the City will plant more appropriate varieties. Overhanging bushes in the right of away are the home owner's responsibility. However, Peg encourages people to call 206-684-ROAD if they see needed fixes.

Question: What is the Response time for 206-684-ROAD?

Answer: Standard response is one month. The caller should receive an estimated time to repair and /or more information.

Question: Why aren't the orange flags used more often?

Answer: They are used in 17 locations throughout the city. There is mixed response and some experimental work is being tried. Surveys point to a number of reasons why they are not used:

- Not cool
- Don't know how to use
- Don't know what they are for

The city must educate the user to improve the technology and usage.

Business Meeting

Minutes: Action Taken: It was moved, seconded and passed that the June 13, 2008 minutes be approved.

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

Sponsors Meeting –Pam reported

1. Nothing from the public comment period indicated a need to change the allocation recommendations. Allocations will again be reviewed in December after the City of Seattle and King County budgets are finalized.
2. ADS is pursuing three grants:
 - *AOA Dementia Day Care Grant* The current dementia Day Care funds are allocated through June of 2009. This grant will secure new federal funding to continue the Dementia Partnership through March of 2010. The new grant would add a fitness component

- *AOA Nursing Home Diversion Grant* will target people at risk of nursing home placement and at risk of spend-down to eligibility levels. The focus would be on veterans and caregivers.
- *KCCP/Chronic Care Management or Rethinking Care* would begin using a WA State model to identify “high risk” SSI Medicaid clients and partner with the Center for Healthcare Strategies to: review and evaluate the current KCCP model.

City Council Report – no report

Planning and Allocations Committee –Art Mussman reported the committee reviewed comments received during the public comment period and from the August 8 public hearing regarding the 2009 Preliminary Discretionary Allocation Recommendations. Nothing from the public process suggested a need to change the allocation recommendations. However, the Sponsors felt another public review process may be needed if the December allocations from the City and King County yielded substantive changes.

Action: The following allocation recommendation was made.

- Re-visit the 2009 allocations in December. The December meeting date was scheduled for December 3, to review and update the 2009 allocations.

The P&A Committee also had the opportunity to review the 2007 *HSD Consolidated Plan* which represents the integration of several community based plans including the Area Plan on Aging. The consolidated plan reduces duplication, enhances coordination, and provides opportunities for leveraging multiple funding resources. It reflects ongoing commitments to homeless, neighborhood revitalization, economic development and infrastructure for non-profits. It includes funding from four federal grants including

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- HOMR Investment partnership
- Emergency Shelter Grant Program
- Housing Opportunities for Person with AIDS

Public comment for the Plan will be open through September 19th.

NW Universal Design Council – Art Mussman made a motion to write a letter to the Seattle Human Services Department requesting, where feasible, that all publicly funded housing should be built utilizing Universal Design (UD) elements. Twelve specific elements such as step-free entrances and 36-inch wide doors were listed in the letter. The letter went on to say the elements are necessary to allow residents of publicly funded housing to age in place.

ACTION: The motion was second and agreed to by the Council. Chair Michael Miller will sign the letter.

Outreach and Advocacy/Health Care – Don Moreland reported that the committee has not met for a while due to the forum planning process and there are lots of health care issues to discuss. He suggested they meet Friday, October 10 at 10:15.

Legislative Forum Committee – Doug gave an update on the forum and passed out the list of reservations and assignments. He reminded AC members there was transportation available from Karen and car pools were available. Let Doug know if you do not have a ride. So far 100 people signed up for the conference.

State Council on Aging – No report

Communications Committee – Maria and Kate Slaminko reported Senior Digest receives 350 hits per day. Maria explained the higher number of hits results in a higher position on the web. The committee suggested adding an index or a search feature. They continue to discuss how to bring in topics related to the disability committee including how to best serve that niche. Suggested options include a special web search feature related to disability sites and articles, a quarterly issue dedicated to the disability community, or a specific section targeting disability issues.

Director’s Report

1. Pam thanked Doug and the Forum Committee for their work to make this year’s forum a success. A number of legislators will participate, thanks to the committee’s influence.
2. Pam complimented Don Moreland on the fabulous dinner he prepared at his residence for Representative Pettigrew, Representative Peterson and herself. He was a wonderful host and “advocate”. Conversation and cuisine was outstanding.
3. Pam took part in the HPRC Community Accountability Board which has a focus on aging, healthcare and research. Their goal is to research, replicate and disseminate what they have learned through research to the community.
4. Pam attended a joint meeting between the local Muckleshoot and Snoqualmie Tribes to coordinate case management transportation and other services.
5. The State Council on Aging Forum in Spokane on October 7 will include a number great workshops including: Housing Study, PEARLS, Project 2020, and Dental Access.

Cathy VonWald spoke briefly about the King County forum most likely to be held in March. Cathy explained the governor encouraged the creation of local forums to develop strategies to accommodate the increase in older adults in the baby boom generation. She suggested a wide range of business sectors be invited. The Forum planners have a number of ideas including the use of electronic voting.

6. Pam will travel to Washington DC to present information on Strategic partnerships. She will also participate with the National Council on Aging on the discussion of a number of issue topics including the Project 2020 bill.

Announcements

Michael brought 5 important dates to the Council's attention

1. The Legislative Forum September 17, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Tukwila Community Center.
2. Please cancel the Sept. 23rd Sponsors meeting – it will be rescheduled later
3. Please CANCEL the October 10 Advisory Council Meeting instead
4. The AC is invited to the Statewide Gathering of Advisory Councils on Thursday, October 16, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the Tukwila Community Center.
5. Then on Friday, October 17th from 9:00 AM - 3:15 PM the Senior Lobby will host a conference on “Critical Issues for an Aging Society” at the SeaTac Doubletree. Governor Christine Gregoire will open the conference and Senator Maria Cantwell will present the keynote during lunch.

Michael asked AC members to sign up for either one or both events on the signup sheet passed around for the October 16 Statewide Advisory Council Meeting and the October 17th Senior Lobby ADS will underwrite the cost for ADS Advisory Council Members attending either one or both events. Flyers were available and Gigi will also email them to the AC members.

Adjourned

The Advisory Council was adjourned at 2:00 PM

Friday, November 14, 2008 Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Topic: Housing Plan

4060 Conference Room, Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Ave

Seattle, WA 98124

www.adsadvisorycouncil.org