



Elders in Action Commission Meeting

**Wednesday, March 16, 2016 – Copper Room, 5th Floor, Multnomah County Bldg.
Draft Minutes**

Attendees- Tamara Maher, Elaine Friesen-Strang, Ray Johnson, Bobbi Yambasu, Dolores Hubert, Suzanne Hansche, Lee Girard, Mary Westfall, Bob Baskette, JoAnn Herrigel, Lisha Shrestha

Guests: Lee Girard, Rebecca Miller, Steve Weiss, Cheryll Brounstein, Kate Cavanaugh, Carol McKenzie, Will Fuller, Steven Clark, John Bjoursen, George Hocker Jr., Barbara Bernstein

Minutes – Minutes of the February 17 meeting were approved.

Action items from previous Leadership Commission meeting

Call to order/ Diversity Exercise

- Attendees participated in an activity and shared their views on diversity.
- A training needs assessment form was distributed and information on possible culturally specific site visits and meet-ups was also handed out.

Commissioner Nick Fish

- Comm. Nick Fish informed the group that he is not currently a candidate for election.
- He will be at the Portland Mayoral Forum on April 2nd, Double Tree Lloyd Center.
- Comm. Fish discussed the City's \$ 20 million in discretionary funds in this year's budget, which might increase up to \$30 million. He said it is important to look at how the resources are being used to address the housing emergency.
- Comprehensive Plan- It is essential to make sure the City is accessible to all ages and people with different abilities. Middle housing proposals attempt to address this.
- Hopeful that the next Mayor will have goals for raising funds for Age Friendly Action Plan.
- Water Bureau Low-Income Discount Program- Provides a discount to the low income population who receive utility bills from the city. Comm. Fish also explained the eligibility criteria for the program. Jamie Dunphy will follow up with any further updates.

- Comm. Fish asked for ideas on how to get the word out about the water Bureau Low-Income Discount Program.

ADVSD Reports/Discussions/Issues – Lee Girard and Rebecca Miller

ADVSD Budget update- Lee

- County Counsel will have answers on advisory council advocacy issue at April 6 meeting.
- DCHS Chair will release the budget in April 20. Budget calendar is available online.
- A request to fund two items was made –
Public Guardian position - \$110,000
Senior Hunger Initiative
- Proposed reductions to meet 5% constraint, asking to have restored -
Adult Protective Services Risk Case Manager - \$ 97,128
Multnomah Project Independence – \$ 231,083
- Proposed reductions to meet 5% constraint, will not ask to be restored
Co-located partner lease subsidies- \$97,887
Veterans Services supplies - \$ 10,000
Public Guardian travel & training - \$ 4,500
IT support for District Center contractors - \$ 17,690

Legislative Update-

- General Assistance program served 200 only
- There is a budget shortfall for Aging and People with Disabilities (APD). APD may convene a Fatality Review Team. Gatekeeper funding for the remainder of the biennium was not approved.

Area Plan- Rebecca

- Melissa Greeney will present about Emergency /Gap service in May.
- A request was made for 1 representative from EIA commission to sit on two committees.
 1. The Allocation methodology group - Allocation methodology for district center nutrition enhancing cultural specific services
 2. The existing contractors group- Pulling existing community contract for getting input (meaningful performance measures and to get feedback on what has/has not worked in past)
- Outreach for Area Plan input – hoping for 600 people.

DCHS Budget updates CBAC- Tamara Maher

- Useful dates – May 10 (Hearing), May 17 (forecast), and May 26 (Final)

- There is no change in original recommendation.
- Request was made for Tamara to coordinate with commissioner and agency to plan for testimony. Suzanne will work with Tamara on this.

Committee reports/highlighting Action Requests

- There is no response from Mark Lear to present on Gas Tax. Elaine, JoAnn and Lisha will work on getting information on Gas Tax.
- Healthy Columbia Willamette is organizing a listening session on health need assessment data. The report will be released in June. They want to have a brainstorming session in May. DSAC, MAC can also attend.

Realignment & Restructuring EIA

Barbara Bernstein addressed the group regarding the Board's recent memo to the Commission's Executive Committee. She expressed the Board's interest and intent in collaborating on advocacy while the strategic planning process is on-going.

Elaine noted that staff should be present during this discussion of collaborative advocacy.

Suzanne raised the issue of preparing testimony on the County budget and also asked how testimony on the Comprehensive Plan could be completed in a timely fashion.

JoAnn shared her idea for how the letter she drafted, but has not sent, that was in the Commission packet) addressed the concerns of older adults without stating a position.

It was decided to set up dates on how to coordinate on advocacy efforts.

Bobbi expressed concern that the commission is being asked not to do things assigned to them in their bylaws.

Will Fuller said he felt that we are all Elders in Action and that people who are impacted by decisions need to have a seat at the table. He thinks the Commission has not felt respected.

The group agreed that the next Leadership agenda should include further discussion of collaborative advocacy. It is unclear to the Commission what the board means by "collaboration".

A comment was made by Ray Johnson concerning inclusion. It was noted that the by law amendments sent to the Board for approval several months ago had not been approved and it was unclear if the Board ever intended to approve them.

It was noted that communication should be more forthcoming. Advocacy is integral part of EIA commission. This effort needs to be collaborative with agency staff. The Commission continues to be unclear about structure and implementation of the advocacy role.

Barbara noted that Elders in Action had been asked to develop a diversity plan, also called a "Corrective Action Plan." Alana will be coming to an upcoming Commission meeting to work with the group on contract compliance.

A concern was raised about the tone of the memo from the EIA Board to the Commission. It was noted that the memo stated that the Commission was to stop doing certain activities. A general concern was raised that communications among agency, commission and Board need to be authentic, respectful and complete.

Kate Cavanaugh commented that when she began attending Commission meetings it was a little scary. She said there was a dizzying array of information and that sometimes the meetings moved too fast for her to keep up and that having a mentor from the start is necessary.