

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY MEETING APRIL 17, 2018

ATTENDEES: Belinda Gerry, Leroy Walker, Jan Biron, Tizz Crowley, Larry Pelletier, Frank Pippin, and Mamie Ney

Leroy Walker opened the meeting at 5:03 p.m. with review of the minutes. Tizz asked that page 3, the third sentence, be amended to read “community center” rather than “community’s”. Also, Tizz asked to change the word tree to “history” on the last page, 5 lines up from the adjournment.

Tizz Crowley moved that the minutes be accepted as presented with the two minor changes. Seconded by Belinda. All in favor.

Leroy stated that the meeting will be short and sweet tonight. We need people who want to be part of this committee to list their names on the nomination list. Peter Ceprano is our support staff person.

We are looking for a treasurer, corresponding secretary, asst. corresponding secretary, and two alternates. The alternates would have to be at the meetings to make sure they are informed, should they be required to vote. Signing up does not mean that that person is on the board tonight. It was suggested that terms be limited to 3 or 4 years and be staggered.

Tizz asked why we would need a treasurer. We would not have to purchase anything. Leroy explained that it depends on which roadmap to livability we follow. We may need a treasurer at some point. Tizz pointed out that anyone who wants to be a member of the board should be required to fill out an application online through the volunteer forms on the city’s website. At this point, Leroy just wants to know who is interested in applying.

Leroy and Belinda will get together with the city manager and decide what next steps will be. Leroy’s plan is to put some of the many suggestions that people have brought to us into action. There are 5 or 6 things to get implemented. The school video lab, library tablets, take a veteran to school, seniors plus (meals on wheels), etc. Tizz stated that we should invite Patricia Oh and the person from Seniors Plus to come on a specific date so that they can plan on it and put it on their calendars.

Tizz is hoping that if Auburn does this project correctly, this will be a wonderful service that is offered by the City of Auburn. Leroy stated that we need to have Liz work with us on the committee. There are two plans that we are looking at. One is much simpler than the other. The Town of Bowdoin has a great plan in place that we could start off with. The Town of Scarborough plan is put out through their rec department. Belinda would like to see our senior program follow the Scarborough plan.

Tizz listed some of the issues that are faced by people in the community:

Food insecurity, Medical, Seniors Home bound, Recreation and leisure lifestyle, Senior Community Center, Senior programming, Activities, Technology.

Frank suggested that we use these plans as a template, but to follow our own plan and refer to the other plans to find our direction.

Tizz stated that the finance aspect of the city should also address issues as to how to help seniors be able to stay in their homes, as well as paying for wheel chair charging stations. AARP deals with housing, recreation, walkability, etc. There are many different facets that we can influence and make recommendations for.

Tizz suggested reaching out to specific people to initiate programs like a walking program.

Leroy stated that Al Manoian is coming the last Tuesday in May (29th.) He will be at the UNAA meeting that night, and will be in town at 2:00 p.m. He wants to do a walk-about in New Auburn.

This committee is just a big umbrella and needs a lot of other smaller committees to move forward, i.e. taking a veteran to school, using the video lab, etc. We want to get some of these projects under way. The goal is to move the aging community forward, getting them involved.

Mamie talked about Project Playback for people with dementia. They play music to the elderly. It is amazing what music does to them. They do charge for their assistance.

Mamie also brought in a tablet to show it to the group. The tablets have Skype on them and people would be able to stay in touch with their loved ones.

Tizz suggested setting a time aside at the library to help people to set up an email account so that they can come in to check their email.

There is a media lab at the library also that people could use. People who are trained with using the tablet could go to the person who wanted to get in touch with his/her loved ones, and set up a Skype session for them. There are 4 tablets available. We just have to get this information out to the community so that they can take advantage of it.

Belinda asked about the logistics for the volunteer day at the high school. She wanted to know if the kids are going to go to the homes of the seniors or if the seniors are going to come to the video lab. Leroy explained that Jim Horn is going to figure out all the logistics depending on the needs of the person being interviewed. Jim Horn is going to provide us with a calendar of class dates that are available. Community Service day is May 18th. Larry's date would be in November for the "Take a Veteran to School" day. Leroy suggested using Park Avenue School for the veterans. The principal was very organized and efficient and had everything going smoothly. There isn't as much room at Park Avenue. Larry prefers the high school. They will talk to Jim Horn about it. Leroy said that it would be better to do it on a small scale rather than not being able to do it at all. Larry suggested doing it at different schools each year. Frank would prefer to be at Park Avenue School for the veteran day. Frank and Larry would like to get together at the same time at the video lab at the high school to discuss their military time, from different perspectives.

Frank asked if anyone knows of anyone who needs meals on wheels. Meals on wheels serves 3 counties, Oxford, Franklin and Androscoggin. Six meals are delivered per person, once or twice a week. This is also a point of contact, making sure people are warm, healthy, and alive. This is very valuable for seniors.

Leroy was concerned about getting everyone connected to the organization (that already exists) so that they can get service. If someone needs meals, connect them with Meals on Wheels. If they need heat, connect them with the appropriate organization.

Frank also mentioned having people volunteering at various senior housing locations to play games, cards, spend time with seniors, etc. to get seniors engaged. Books are also sent from the library to Barker, Bolster Heights and Schooner Estates. (As a side note, the library cafeteria is entertaining a new business to lease to.)

Larry shared that he went to Walton school and visited with the sixth graders. He said he was asked some very good questions.

Belinda suggested having the video people come to a seniors meeting and film some of our senior citizens in the day room during a seniors meeting.

Adjournment: 6:15

Respectfully submitted:

Jan Biron