

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes May 15, 2024

Location: Vancouver AAADSW Office – Columbia Room and Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gavin Carmichael at 12:03pm.

Roll Call: Shelley Baxter, Marianne Burkholder, Kevin Callahan, Sue Cameron, Pat Cano, Gavin Carmichael, Diane Craft, Jodi Oliver, Norma Pickett, Mary Repar

Excused: Colleen Bennett

Absent: Joe Bosch, Kathy Briggs, Greg Flakus

Staff present: Mike Reardon, Christina Marnaris (Zoom), Patti Atkins, Maggie Ridenour

Guests: Vickei Hrdina (Guest Speaker), DeLena Perry, Marcy Le, Tom Kent, Rick Seekins, Steve Swope and Gloria Titus (Tenants Group at Vista Del Rio Park), Franklin Johnson (Clark County Commission on Aging)

May 15, 2024, Meeting Agenda: Kevin Callahan moved to approve the agenda. Mary Repar seconded. Motion passed.

April 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes: Pat Cano moved to approve the minutes. Shelley Baxter seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements/Community Outlook:

- Shelley Baxter (Klickitat):
 - Shared concerns about Klickitat County losing some funding.
 - Shelley is still trying to find an additional Klickitat County Advisory Council member candidate.
- Marianne Burkholder (Wahkiakum):
 - Discussed that Wahkiakum County is still in need of farmers who are willing to be at the Farmers Market and accept the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers.
 - Marianne is still trying to find an additional Wahkiakum County Advisory Council member candidate.
- Kevin Callahan (Clark):
 - Kevin has been talking to Clark County and City of Vancouver regarding their updates for their Comprehensive Plans.
 - Vancouver has updated their Housing Affordability Plan.
 - Will have \$10M available to assist in different kinds of housing efforts.
 - Kevin has submitted a question to the City of Vancouver staff for their City Attorney.
 - “Are cities in Washington allowed to have more restrictive requirements for the process for the sale of manufactured home parks than what is included in state law?”

- The current process doesn't realistically allow enough time to for manufactured home park residents to do everything needed to make an offer on purchasing the park if it goes up for sale.
 - Kevin would like to start going to the city council public meetings and speak during the public comment period (each person is given 3 minutes to speak).
 - There are four meetings Kevin would like to attend with the support of AAADSW and the Advisory Council.
 - He has prepared four 3-minute presentations (1 for each meeting).
- Sue Cameron (Clark): Nothing new to report.
- Pat Cano (Clark): Nothing new to report.
- Gavin Carmichael (Klickitat): Nothing new to report.
- Diane Craft (Cowlitz):
 - Kelso Senior Center has closed for remodeling.
 - The hope is that by remodeling they will be able to bring back some of the services for seniors such as their meal programs.
 - They would also like to have more of a "community center" feel for rentals to help with funding the center.
 - The May 30, 2024 Kelso/Longview Chamber of Commerce Health and Wellness Fair has been postponed. No new date yet.
 - Lower Columbia College (LCC) is having a career fair on June 5, 2024 10:00am – 2:00pm.
 - Focus for this career fair will be health care and social services.
 - HEVIN (Helping Every Veteran in Need)
 - <https://hevin4vets.com/>
 - Not for Profit organization created to help Cowlitz County veterans in need.
 - Recently opened an office in Castle Rock
 - Will be holding a car show soon with all proceeds going to HEVIN.
 - In July 2024 the local VSO's will be holding a gold tournament.
- Jodi Oliver (Clark): Nothing new to report.
- Norma Pickett (Skamania):
 - Norma reported that she had attended the National Council of Aging in Washington DC on behalf of AAADSW.
 - She was able to meet with several aides to our local representatives about issues on AAADSW's radar.
- Mary Repar (Skamania):
 - Discussed the continued need of funding for the Skamania County Senior Services cook.
 - Discussed the need for more in-home care availability in Skamania County.

Reports:

Executive Director's Report: Mike thanked everyone for sharing what is going on in their local communities and sharing ideas with each other on possible solutions. He appreciates the advocacy and the commitment to seniors and the disabled in your communities.

- High School Home Care Aide Program:
 - Mike extended his thanks to Diane for the connection she was able to make for Mike to meet with Bill Ofstun, Director of Assessment, CTE & Technology Integration in the Longview School District.

- The ask was made to Bill by Mike and Diane that he consider completing the state paperwork to start the High School Home Care Aide Program in the Longview School District.
 - Bill has completed the application and paperwork and has submitted it up to the state.
- WA Cares:
 - On May 1, 2024 Mike attended a meeting about contingency planning around what happens if Initiative 2124 passes.
 - Initiative 2124, if it passes, would make WA Cares optional.
 - The state actuaries determined that the groups who would likely opt out of WA Cares are the higher and middle-income earners and the lower income earners would likely continue to contribute to the fund.
 - There is a likelihood that the fund would be eroded so then premiums would have to be increased.
 - Mike will attend another meeting in July about this and he will continue to keep us informed.
 - Mary also attended the meeting and brought up the change that has been made to WA Cares from when it was originally passed. The benefits are now portable if you move out of state.
- Older Americans Month:
 - Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the nation’s observance of Older Americans Month (OAM), a time to recognize older Americans' contributions, highlight aging trends, and reaffirm commitments to serving the older adults in our communities. The 2024 theme is *Powered by Connection*, which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being.
 - Patti shared that she has written an article for the Clark County Senior Messenger around Older Americans Month and the theme, Powered by Connection, and things you can do and actions that you can take to participate in Older Americans Month if you choose to.
 - Patti has also been contributing social media posts to AAADSW’s Facebook page for Older Americans Month.
 - Mike and Christina shared that WA is now part of AARP’s Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and USAgging’s Dementia-Friendly America networks.
 - Link to the joint press release: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/os/office-communications/media-release/joint-news-release-washington-joins-age-and-dementia-friendly-networks>.
 - AAADSW is currently the co-sponsor for Dementia Friends Clark County with Hope Dementia Support Groups.
 - This has included information sessions to Washougal Police Department and C-Van.
- State of WA Aging and Long Term Services Administration (AL TSA):
 - Mike is seeing a lot of progress being made around workforce development.
 - Washington State is one of 13 states who applied and were chosen to participate in the Direct Care Workforce Strategies Center’s State Peer Learning Collaboratives.
 - Mike has requested to be a representative of AAADSW in the collaborative.
 - AL TSA has a renewed effort to reaching out to employers and schools around the High School Home Care Aide program.
 - AL TSA is piloting a Remote Caregiving program.
 - Similar to telehealth
 - Instead of a home care agency sending a health care worker into the home to do a particular task, the pilot program will have a device in the care receivers home and a certified home care worker back at the agency to help with a portion of caregiving.
 - Incorporates reminders for things like:
 - Taking medications
 - Getting up and moving
 - Using the restroom
 - Eating

Executive Committee:

- Executive Committee met on 5/7/24 and drafted the agenda for today.

Planning and Allocations: Did not meet in May.

Advocacy and Outreach: Did not meet in May.

Membership Committee: Did not meet in May.

State Council on Aging (SCOA): No report.

Presentations:

- High School Home Care Aide Program (Vicki Hrdina, Director of Career Readiness & STEM, ESD 112):
 - Please see attached slides.
- Update on Mobile Home Park Initiative:
 - Kevin suggested one way AAADSW may be able to help is to possibly have some sort of education offered where we could bring together a pro-bono attorney and manufactured home park residents to learn about why a cooperative could be beneficial to them and how to work towards setting one up.
 - Kevin has also suggested that AAADSW offer a public statement in support of the residents of the mobile/manufactured home parks and look into possibly supporting the re-zoning of the mobile/manufactured home parks as a way to potentially protect the residents.

General Topics Discussed:

- Revision of By-Laws:
 - The Executive Committee suggested combining some of the committees since some of the issues covered often cross over multiple committees, it makes more sense to work together as a combined committee.
 - Membership and Planning & Allocations would combine to be one committee instead of two separate committees.
 - Gavin suggested making the change to the by-laws for about a year and then revisit the changes to see if they have worked or if they need further revision.
- **Kevin Callahan** moved to approve the revision of the by-laws. **Sue Cameron** seconded. Motion to revise by-laws passed.

Public Comment:

- Tenants Group at Vista Del Rio Park, Clark County:
 - They are finding they need to start by creating a non-profit and form an organizational support.
 - Currently in the process of writing by-laws and articles of incorporation but would like an attorney to review what they are writing so that they don't inadvertently hurt their group.
 - There are 213 units in Vista Del Rio on 33.8 acres.
 - Residents own the structure but lease the lots from the landowner.
 - There are about 309 residents.
 - Combined assessed value for all of the units is about \$14.9M.
 - These are manufactured homes, they are not mobile homes.
 - If the property is purchased by a developer, the residents are at a large disadvantage.
 - If there is a purchase by a developer and the worst happens, meaning everyone is told they will have to leave there will be over 300 seniors (aged 55+) who will then become homeless.

- Another issue is if the property is sold but not to a developer there really are no safeguards in place to control rent so there could be drastic increases in rent.
- The residents are seeking resources, knowledge and any help or support that AAADSW can provide.
 - An immediate ask is to help in finding a pro-bono attorney who can review what has been started in terms of creating a non-profit.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.

Signature Maxine Burkhalter Date 6-26-2024