

Minutes of Senior Advisory Committee  
July 31 2018  
City Hall Basement 11:30-1:00pm

Members present: Marilyn Reilly, Maxine Beecher, Mary Pelletier, Susan Henderson, Michele Danois, Elizabeth Ross-Holstrom, Joan Herzog, Chase Hewitt, Kathy Babeu, Arthur Handman

Meeting called to order by Maxine Beecher

Minutes of 7/10/ 18 were not discussed, will review on Aug. meeting.

The next meetings will be on Aug 7 and we will meet on September 11.

Sue reported that Dr. Meredith Tipton and Dr. Rebecca Boulos are going to look at the data together and try to “drill down” in their analysis.

Elizabeth facilitated discussion to group’s analysis to determine needs.

The group looked at list of major issues identified from data in Chase’s Final Summary (7/31/18) and each member in group wrote one post it note for an item that was missing from his list based on their analysis of the data.

There was agreement in group that property taxes were a priority issue. There was no survey question specific to this issue, but there were many written comments talking about difficulty affording taxes.

Another priority identified by survey data was the need for sidewalks, lighting, and crosswalks to allow safe walking, biking and driving. Chase said “people want to be able to get around” Transportation was also identified as a problem, particularly for those over 85, related to a lack of affordable transportation, lack of ability to get to and from bus stops, limited routes and schedules that might not match demand in terms of flexibility and dependence on friends and family for rides. Sue said that the concept of “complete streets” contains all these factors and that the Council passed a Complete Streets Order last year because the manager wanted these concerns addressed.

Shoveling snow in winter and to some degree summer yard work was identified as the third high priority need.

A second tier of issues was discussed: food insecurity even if by a few was considered important, issues related to non-medical health needs such as someone to help when sick was noted by a small number of survey recipients, but issue important. Some comments on survey stated a need for development of neighborhood networks. Focus group comments reflected a need for health related supports. Focus groups also addressed need for a human to assist with navigating system to achieve needed help. This was mentioned in relation to need for a resource directory in a communication form accessible to seniors. Kathie stated that education on online

communication also a need. Communication will be discussed further as a deliverable. Survey data demonstrated some interest in help with both labor and costs of home repairs. Also, survey data illustrated changing housing patterns with increasing age that could be illustrative of need for affordable housing that is physical accessible and safe for changes of aging. The group was in basic agreement on this assessment of the data. Elizabeth will share a list of her notes of our deliberations.

The task for next week is to look at our resources in relation to the needs identified. Small groups may be developed to work on researching resources available re needs.

Recorder

Sue Henderson