

Ad hoc Senior Implementation Steering Committee
Meeting Oct. 9, 2019
South Portland City Hall Basement Conference Room
5:30-7:00 PM
Minutes

Present: Peter Stanton, Maxine Beecher, Bernadette Kroon, Anthony Grande, Lisa Joyce, Susan Henderson, Phil Smith, Kathleen Babeu, Brooks More, Josh Probsilo, Chad Macleod, Joanne Schaffer.

Members absent: Alan Cardinal, Donaldo Gotelli, Carol Kilroy, April Caricchio

5:30 Meeting commences, introductions made

Minutes of 9/11 accepted with change to note that minutes of Aug meeting accepted and that Kathleen was not there. There was no financial report, no money has been spent in the last month.

Seeking New Members and Chair: In discussion it was noted that Bernadette will be able to continue to serve on the Committee, Diane will need to step down related to post accident recovery time needed and Adele Edelman, our chair, resigned because of need to be available to her family out of state. It was agreed that Lisa Joyce should be a Committee member. (April's replacement of Deqa and Lisa's replacement of Adel will need to be ratified by the Council, when we find a member to replace Diane, who we hope will come back when she is able. It was agreed that Maxine would chair for now, members would think about the chair role and email Sue suggestions for the spot on the Committee.

Draft Report to City Manager and Council: It was agreed that Sue would send the draft that she and Maxine wrote.

AARP Application: We were notified that our application was liked and all we need to be accepted is a letter of support from the Manger with a copy of the City logo. There was discussion about whether or not the AARP designation would keep us from doing things with the city and the decision was that there was no evidence that would be the case. A motion was made by Peter Stanton to accept AARP designation when approval final, seconded by Tony Grande. Sue said she would ask the City Manager to write the letter.

In discussion, it was noted that the Committee name is long and difficult to say and that we should think of renaming. It was suggested that perhaps it just should be: The Age Friendly City Committee.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Housing: Housing Minutes were sent to Sue who forwarded to the group. The question was raised about how sub-committee reports should be presented to the Committee. Peter Stanton will take the chair role. Members are Donaldo Gotelli, Phil Smith, Dan Hogan, Tom Ainsworth.

Peter met with Public Works head, Doug Howard. Peter requested that **sand barrels be placed in commercial districts** so that if after plowing, the sidewalk became icy, walkers could sprinkle some sand themselves.

It was agreed that:

- Knightville and Thorton Heights would be a place to pilot the project
- Public Works would place barrels and scoops after consideration of placement
- The Committee will provide public works with the 2x4s to hold the barrels.

Peter also requested help in **getting sand buckets to the homes of seniors and disabled who are not able to get out and get the sand themselves.**

Mr Howard said that Public Works would:

- take phone calls and collect data about where needed
- do much of the delivery
- collect and store the buckets over the summer.

Mr Howard asked that we:

- provide the buckets. Donation may take time for this year, it was discussed that we should use our money to purchase. Josh said that he would ask the Firemans' Union if they might donate as this is really a fall prevention program. Also, he noted that Public Works has free buckets from field care, that we might be able to get.
- Help with delivering sand before storms as calls come in and public works busy with storm. We would need access to a pickup truck and some volunteers

We will **need to publicize the program** by articles in the Sentry, flyers distributed, and information provided at the **Senior Expo at the Community Center on Nov 8, 9-12n.: we will have a table.**

Donaldo is seeing if he can get some data on our neediest residents are.

As the program is publicized it may increase awareness of need neighbor. This awareness of neighborhood need might eventually move to volunteers for snow blowing.

Transportation: Tony reported, the group met on 9/9 with Tony, Peter and Jennifer Morris present. The grantee for the **Shoppers Link program would like us to have a community conversation before the end of October** along with Zoe from GPCOG and our

committee to evaluate the program, they have filmed a video and Sue and others were interviewed. Sue and Tony spoke with Karla Doyan at the Community Center.

It was agreed:

- we can come to Senior Day, 10/22 where they have day long program.
- Small discussion groups will be held around the lunch break. Zoe is making flyers and brings food.
- We need to think of questions we want to ask. Zoe, Phil and Sue are able to attend at this time, it might be good to include more people.

Communication: Report by Carol, minutes to be attached. The group met in Aug, Sept, Oct. The Sentry is willing to provide guest columns, monthly starting in January and would like to have 4-6 months ahead. Chase Hewitt is busy with school now and we need ideas and writers. The group spent hours working on **food insecurity**. Kathleen raised the question where does communication stop and developing the domain begin. We did not discuss at this time. The group developed four categories of resources re food for seniors. Handouts will be ready to distribute at the Senior Expo on Nov 8. (we did not staff the table at this time. Our city Health Officer, Josh, reported that firefighters have reported no food in homes of around three individuals with limited mobility on 911 calls. The firefighters can not deal with problem at the time of the call, but the Health Officer can visit these individuals for further assessment and then link them to resources. Kathy gave him a copy of the food resource handout which he thought would be helpful.

On Nov 7, Josh as Health Officer is holding a Flu Clinic along with B/P screening and medication reconciliation from 3-6PM. The Committee was invited to attend and give information.

Public Comments: Brooks More of the Housing Authority shared information about senior affordable housing they would like to build at Landry Center, but to do so would require a change in the parking requirements of the G zone to match the senior apartment requirements in the rest of the city. It was agreed that:

- Brooks will let group know when issue is coming before the council so people can email or come and speak.

Next meeting 11/13/19 at 5:30. Meeting concluded a little after 7:00 pm
Susan Henderson recording