

Hallowell Age-Friendly Committee

Notes to Meeting January 10, 2018 – Next meeting Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 9:00 AM in the City Council Chambers

Attending: Mike Frett, Sara Grant, Lyn Gray, George LaPointe, Bob McIntire, Diane Polky, Maggie Warren, MaryAnn Zagaria.

Mike briefly reviewed our work to date and distributed a list of committee members with emails and phone numbers, then anointed Bob McIntire as meeting chair.

Bob suggested committee members refer to Step 7 in the AARP Publication *Roadmap to Livability* that sets out some steps for developing an action plan, including, but not necessarily in this order, Writing Mission and Vision Statements, Identifying Values, Priorities and Goals.

Sara noted her belief that it is important that goals be “smart” as described on the following page in the publication; Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely.

MaryAnn wondered about the sequence and length of time covered by an action plan. Sara explained that Augusta developed a 3-5 year action plan, but had made substantial progress and felt the plan would have to be revisited sooner than anticipated.

Mike reported that the City Manager is working on a vision statement for the city.

Bob asked that members share their reasons for wanting to serve on the committee as a starting point for committee work.

MaryAnn is amazed at the level of civic involvement in Hallowell. Her professional career is focused in part on geriatrics, so the committee’s work is a natural fit.

Maggie said as a result of a recent, lengthy illness, she has first hand experience on how difficult life challenges would be had she not had the support of her partner. She would have been “up the creek.”

Lyn explained that the minister of her church asked if she would be interesting in serving. She said you don’t think of yourself as old and suddenly it seems you are!

Mike Frett recently realized that he has lived in Hallowell longer than any place other than his mother’s home in Brooklyn. He is no longer a spring chicken! You have to start thinking about where you want to stay. He loves the community. It is a place to be involved. He wants Hallowell to be a place for people of all ages to strive. Maine has the oldest population in the nation and we have to be ahead of

the curve in providing support and service. MaryAnn reflected that Hallowell is an integrated community. Sara responded “intergenerational.”

George explained that in his role as the Chair of the city’s Finance Committee he is focused on how best we can deliver needed services with the resource available. He spoke about encouraging more volunteer efforts like the high school’s Day of Sharing. Maybe there is a way to provide services in addition to trail maintenance and digging Japanese knotweed, not that that isn’t important. MaryAnn wondered how to engage younger people like Girl and Boy Scouts. Sara added it is all about partnerships; the high school, the city, real estate agents, everyone is needed to sustain the effort.

Diane noted that her role as City Clerk meant she was actively involved in reaching out to youth, organizing the Christmas Party, administering the summer rec program and the senior citizens lunch. She is also involved in scheduling and issuing permits for use of the city’s open spaces like The Res, Vaughan Field, and Granite City Park. Being involved with the “movers and shakers” is the most enjoyable part of her job. MaryAnn wondered if use of city facilities produced income? Diane said there was no charge and that was up to the Finance Committee.

Sara shared that she in the last semester of the Master’s degree program (whew!) and the position with AARP supporting efforts of age-friendly communities is allowing her to work on a larger scale than the one-on-one, micro level work. It is a position that she feels fits her well.

Bob ask Mike and George if the City Council had any specific expectations of the committee. They said not really. Mike said forming the committee as a subcommittee of the Council’s Health and Wellness Committee might provide a sense of direction for the effort. Mike and George said we should ask the Mayor and City Manager if they have expectations.

Mike recognized Diane and the Public Works crew for getting the sand bucket distribution started. He applauded their initiative for getting the ball rolling.

The committee looked at the *Roadmap to Livability* and noted mention of setting short term and long-term goals. Diane suggested looking at recreational facilities. She said that Vaughan Field has an organization that provides direction and support for that facility. Maybe there is a need for additional picnic facilities. She said that The Res had more facilities when she first came like picnic tables and recreational facilities. Perhaps working on finding leadership for sprucing up the ball field for example.

George reminded us of the Recreation Committee and their work which lead us to discuss partnerships again. Sara said that the Augusta Age-Friendly Committee regularly invited partner organizations to their meetings to discuss ways to work together.

Maggie ask if there were examples of other livable community plans. Bob had a copy of the Bethel area plan he gave her.

Mike spoke of the frustration of having the street light out at the corner of North and Water Streets and wonder about how to have that repaired. Maggie said a neighborhood dog walker noted many street lights out after the wind storm. She called CMP and was told the company usually works during the day and doesn't know lights are out until reported. The neighborhood dog-walkers have begun wrapping poles with lights out with flagging tape and CMP has been repairing them. This points out the need for clear, effective communication. "We know how to solve problems, although we may not be the actual problem-solvers."

Sara suggested that we begin with an "asset inventory," what kind of services are being provided now and by whom.

George mentioned that Community Housing of Maine (<http://www.chomhousing.org/>) is going to develop 32 units of affordable housing for seniors in the 25000-square-foot Central Building at Stevens Commons. They would certainly be a partner.

Sara said that she would send copies of the Hallowell Age-Friendly Survey as well and copies of the Walk Ability audit sheet. She also suggested contact the Cohen Center for information on services provided.

The meeting wrapped up with assignments for the next meeting.

Review the results of the Hallowell Age-Friendly Community Survey. Which needs are of greatest priority in your view? Think about the specific areas of need of greatest interest to you.

Gather information about services presently being provided that might address the needs identified in the survey. For example, 57 % of the survey respondents whether or not information about services and resources to support aging in place is easy to find. What information is presently available? In what format? What additional information might be helpful?

<http://www.augustaga.gov/1896/Augusta-is-an-AARP-Age-Friendly-Communit>