AGE-FRIENDLY TRANSPORTATION MINUTES

Date: 02/26/2020
Time: 03:04PM
Facilitator: Terri Hansen

In Attendance

Brad Closs
Aisha Masood
Brian Moldon
Paul Verchinski
Bruce Fulton

Approval of Minutes

First: Brad Closs
Second: Paul Verchinski

Minutes were approved with no changes:

Announcements:

Update on the Survey

- We will officially tally up the survey by the end of March
- Have received 2,700 surveys so far
- A member at the Wild Lake Interfaith Center took both English and Spanish version of the survey, there is many Spanish speaking individuals that go to church every Sunday.
- It was also brought to our attention that the Hindi version was archaic, but enough people spoke English and were able to complete the English version of the survey

Listening Sessions and Focus Groups

- Gathering data through focus groups and listening groups starting late March into April. Will schedule groups during the day and evenings.
- We will contact those who have signed up and only attend the first meeting of the workgroups to see who is still interested.

Discussion

- Neither Baltimore or Howard used the AARP survey, took out the most valuable questions (several surveys were reviewed)

Group was asked to consider

- What still needs to be done and how are we going to do it.
- Transportation is huge, how to fix or make significant changes 1 to 3-5 years, how do we narrow it down.
- Might want to think about as a group what to focus on. Transportation is a not just buses-cars, look at walking and biking. How do we address within the action plan?
- Where do we want to start in the scope of things?
- Office of Transportation is doing some amazing things, do not want to reinvent the wheel
- How do we build upon what is done?
- Need to get current data, what currently exists
- There is a bedrock of past information. In 2015 DCRS finalized a report based on the work of a lot of people in the community and many issues around the older adult community
- Columbia Association report from 2014 re: older adults
- Library sessions in the last few months (see if we can get the information) will be a broader base across the entire community
- The past data will give us more information as to what is still needed
- Neighbor Ride – when appointments are time sensitive, be able to help older community was is available to them
- Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) just approved their human services transportation plan, that lays out where funding is going, and Howard is getting a share of that. Will be broken up by Counties
- Talk to Baltimore County and what transportation they are currently looking into
- Tend to have some of the same issues as Baltimore County.
- What is Baltimore County's action plan?
- All members were asked to review the AARP Livability website – how other communities compares. Workgroup members had questions about the livability index.
    - Hard to understand from the livability website how Columbia and Clarksville have a high score (how was the index developed, where did the date come from)
    - Terri Hansen will be responsible for asking these questions to AARP
- How will the data from the survey will be analyzed, Utilizing statistical package? – Yes-spss.
- A group member asked that survey results be broken down by zip code and ethnic groups
- Neither Baltimore or Howard used the AARP survey, took out the most valuable questions (several surveys were checked)
- Would be interested in average household income for Howard for County resident 60+ compared to Baltimore County – average will be important
- For older adults' income maybe ok for now, income will be cut in half when a spouse dies. We want to look at the demographics throughout the county
- The front end of baby boomers as compared to back end are not as rich

- Do a crosswalk of the 2014 and the 2020 survey. 2014 was not as representative of the community

Ideas:

- Transportation vehicles are out there for senior living and assisted living, could the shuttle buses be utilized more? Would that be valuable
- Would need to check with MDT to make sure vehicles are registered in Howard County
- Maybe an action plan could be vehicle sharing, churches also have vehicles, (who drives them and does the driver need a CDL?
- Look into what grants are out there and see if we can tap into
- Currently have transit and paratransit, do people really know who to call
- Look to having a central number for people to call to help find a ride
- From a workgroup prospective – how do we narrow it and decide what this group should focus on
- Do we look at biking, walking ability, (creative ways to drive people around when they are unable to drive, improving what we currently have or coming up with new ideas, improving infrastructure
- Make a profile, and will demographics help to navigate different transportation options
- Who will the transportation be for older adults, people that have vision issues, people who do not drive at night and therefore do not participate in evening events?
- One member stated 30% of older adults have vision issues
- There could be a focus on seniors who are not driving, individuals who can't drive – disability issues, this goes across the age spectrum
- We could investigate things that can be done with technology, tele medicine, focus on medical appointments, prioritize what you need
- Build things into our way of thinking typically people don't plan 30, 40 years out
- Put systems in place (develop for older population) and it will work for everyone
- Communication is a big issue (a 60yr old who never heard of Neighbor Ride), this is due to or lack of knowledge or information
- How do we get the information out into the community?
- Look into what grants are out there and see if we can tap into

Homework:

- Spend time on the AARP website – Livability Communities to learn about other action plans

White Board Notes:

- Needs
- Survey
- Scope of Workgroup?
- Communication
- Best Options

- Long term strategies 20% - /easy options
- Low hanging 80%
- Have Master Plan
- Walk/Bike – Howard County Government
- Trans. Development plan
- Different Age cohorts
- Working/not working

Next Meeting
03/10/2020 3:00pm – 4:30pm at 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046

Meeting adjourn at 4:31pm