

OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS WORKGROUP MINUTES



Date: 06/17/2020

Time: 9:00 AM

Facilitator: Marian Vessels

In Attendance

Terri Hansen

Mary Pat Donelan

Matt Madera

Margaret Pittman

Marian Vessels

Nicola Morgal

Don Mock

Alice Lewis

Minutes Approved

Minutes were not available for review. They will be sent out to members.

Announcements:

No announcements.

New Business:

Report out – Recreation and Parks and Columbia Association Websites

- Review of what exists
- Leverage as to what we currently have
- Make more user friendly
- Mary Pat was not impressed with the Columbia Association website, not able to download the senior pamphlet.
- Don mentioned that he had not been on the websites as he has been working on the COVID plan to allow outdoor seating at restaurants. It was asked if this could become permanent or if it was just temporary. Don said since most of the new seating was in parking lots it would be temporary only.
- Marian talked about the Recreation and Parks website. Need to enhance the recreation for seniors. No emphasis on senior access. Not a lot of links to outside Recreation within the County. No links to the trails which Columbia Association does post. Suggestion is could we encourage what is offered even if not run by County Government. Communities at large to become more engaged. Enhance some of the low-cost opportunities. The site seems to be easy to use, navigate through. Marian looked to see where there are opportunities to explore natural areas with trails. She would like to see a highlight of the natural areas for the community. Maybe have a link on the County Website of what state parks offer within the County.
- Nicola responded it is very restricted as what can be done on the website for Recreation and Parks. Also, limited to how many pieces we can have for each page. There was a park app within the website that was disconnected. All the trails are currently on the website but one must go into each individual page to see them. Talked about an app that she found called Alltrails.com (very user friendly). Will inquire if this app can be added to the county website.

- Marian stated talked to Susan Potts about letting people know if a trail is wheelchair accessible.
- Nicola will talk with Susan to what happen with the ADA plan, if it can be noted that a trail is dog friendly, wheelchair accessible. There was discussion of using icons next to the different trails to identify such things.

Matt mentioned DTCS linking and asked if there could be a website for Age-Friendly, separate not County affiliated.

- Mary Pat mentioned about restrictions and can they be a little more open.
- Nicola stated security piece is huge. We need a one stop shop for all the different Age-Friendly workgroups. Website is cumbersome due to the restrictions and needs to be uniform.
- Terri talked about how to put more information with the Age-Friendly lens, less about age segregation. Make inclusive with visual and wording.
- Don mentioned regarding wheelchair accessibility on the trails some would not meet the guidelines due to the slope of the trail.
- Marian talked about Cedar Lane Park. Highlight whether the trails are paved or not. We want to encourage people to get out through the Age-Friendly lens.
 - Paved Pathways
 - Physical accessibility
 - Need to get out in nature

Terri shared the DPZ map that was put together for the housing workgroup. Thought it would also work for the outdoor spaces and buildings. Map will be sent to the workgroup. If our workgroup had a map to show where the parks are in relation to where people live, where people of lower income live, where public transportation lines to get people to the parks are and other such data that could be helpful. Will ask if these layers can be added.

- Marian stated the more we are able to overlay on the map would be helpful.
- Terri stated we could ask for little dots for bus stops.
- Given the level of information from ACS plan think it is worth asking what information is available from 2018.
- because our domain is outdoor spaces and buildings Terri asked about buildings in which people can congregate and spend time together. Are there public buildings that we want to add to the map? The building part is lacking a bit. We need to educate ourselves on that part of the domain. Use the AARP website and also look internationally to see how other jurisdictions worked around the building aspect.
- Marian suggested that buildings offering activities to older adults would be nice to have on the map and this might align with what the social participation group is doing.
- Alice mentioned the Village centers which have community centers.
- Nicola asked about churches and neighborhood centers.
- Terri said that more information to start with and then can narrow down. Columbia has the interfaith centers.
- Alice stated should be Age-Friendly to all not just the older adults.
- Margaret really thinks need to focus on older adults.
- Terri stated that both are right. Look at both were older adults can congregate, as well as all ages. Also, when we are looking at the buildings within this domain that places people will visit need to be included. Need to educate ourselves more about this domain.
- Nicola mentioned that Social Participation group are working on this and we should reach out to them and ask for their information once they have completed that part.

Homework Assignments:

- Everyone take time to look at Recreation and Parks and Columbia Association websites and be critical, look at where we can make recommendations to make them more Age-Friendly.
- AARP Website – pick 2 states find action plan look under the outdoor spaces and buildings area, how did they address outdoor spaces and specifically buildings areas? What was their focus?
- Look at the World Health Organization website – look at an action plan from another country.
- Reminder that Terri will be sending out the map to everyone and see what overlays can be added. Transportation with bus stop, low income, 50+Centers was already mentioned.
- Will send out a reminder halfway through the month.

Next Meeting:

July 15, 2020 – 9:00am