



AURORA COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS (ACFOA)

Monday, October 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Older Adult Needs Assessment Scope of Work Creation: Workshop #1

Hybrid- WebEx Virtual Meeting
and in-person at
Moorhead Recreation Center
2390 Havana St, Aurora, CO 80014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: By Chair at 9:07 AM

ACFOA MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeannie Davis, Chair; Sandy Thomas, Vice-Chair; Juanita Audre, Fran Dollard, and Barbara Schneller; Commissioners.

ACFOA MEMBERS ABSENT: Delfina Ashley-Baisden, Frankiemae Perry, and George Bain; Commissioners.

OTHERS PRESENT: Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space; Angela Lawson, Councilmember At Large; Ronald Roulhac, Facility Program Supervisor ACAA, ACFOA Liaison; Lori Sanchez, Recreation Program Supervisor; Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Parks, Design and Construction; Michelle Teller, Senior Planner; Rian French, Project Manager; Daniel Krzyzanowski, Planning Supervisor; Tom Worker-Braddock, Senior Planner; Kathy Sawyer-Snow, Community Engagement Coordinator; Steve Wolter, Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands; Lane Elliot, Project Manager, Eppley Institute for parks and Public Lands; James Seneca, Senior resource Officer; Elvia Tovar, Admin Specialist and Secretary for ACFOA.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: No minutes to approve.

SPEAKERS:

Long Range Planning - Daniel Krzyzanowski, Planning Supervisor, Planning and Development Services

Long Range Planning focuses on developing policies and plans to help shape city environments and conditions, mapping demographics, and analysis of mobility transportation services. The completion of Aurora Places, the city's comprehensive plan, addresses goals for aging in place. This plan includes policy around major topics like housing for Older Adults. People have a diverse range of needs as they



age and as their situation changes. Through community engagement, Older Adults have a voice in shaping the city's policies and programs. Some common themes in the comprehensive plan include access to social services, physical accessibility, recreational, educational opportunities, multigenerational housing and downsizing.

The Planning Department utilized resources such as DRCOG and AARP when developing the city's comprehensive plan.

Transportation Planning - Tom Worker-Braddock, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services

Tom discussed the transportation services offered in Aurora by RTD to include two light rail lines, one commuter rail line, bus routes and Access-a-Ride.

- RTD Access-a-Ride provides transportation to the mobility impaired via bus pick-up and drop-off. There is an application and verification process for this service. Access-a-Ride is available anywhere within the RTD system area.
- DRMAC (Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council) coordinates private transportation providers in the area. These providers receive Medicaid and Medicare funding. Aurora will soon kick off the first City-wide Multimodal Master Plan that covers the entirety of the City of Aurora. DRCOG received federal funding for the Master Plan. It will replace the current Master Plan. The focus is how to make transportation safe and comfortable for all Aurora residents. In addition, RTD is creating Local Service Councils. They will be looking for representatives from the local community to provide feedback on what type of services are best needed in the area. These Councils will help RTD provide greater feedback and greater community involvement.

Older Adult Services and Outreach Kathy Sawyer-Snow, Community Engagement Coordinator, Housing and Community Services Department

The mission of Housing and Community Services is to maintain community appearance and enhance quality of life in aurora's neighborhoods. This is accomplished through a combination of community outreach, code enforcement, animal services, and neighborhood improvement programs and services.

Housing and Community Development

- The Housing and Community Development Department addresses Aurora's needs, goals and strategies regarding housing and community development.
- The city's Housing and Community Development Department is funded by various housing grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to carry out its mission to create safe, decent and affordable housing and other community-based programs.
- The priorities developed in the city's five-year consolidated plan target a wide range of issues from basic needs such as the availability of affordable housing for families and individuals to overall community quality of life issues.



- The city's Master Plan identifies economic opportunities within the community, the provision of support services for all residents, and the prevention of homelessness.

The programs, activities, and strategies developed from this consolidated plan address three overall goals as follows:

- Provide safe, decent, affordable housing
- Provide a suitable living environment
- Provide expanded economic opportunities

Kathy identified the following needs:

- *Resources* – Affordable housing for Older Adults, home maintenance, food assistance, and financial assistance.
- *Gaps/Barriers/Challenges* – Lack of inventory, home repair parts, cost of homeownership, lack of accessibility, inflation, and financial counseling for Older Adults.
- *Potential Solutions* - Capped rent, home share programs, handyman repairs, capped costs, increased property tax exemptions, and increased affordable housing inventory for Older Adults.

Older Adult Services and Outreach - James Seneca, Senior Resource officer, Aurora Police Department, Special Victims Unit (SVU).

Officer Seneca described the SVU's duties to include investigating mandatory reported crimes against at risk adults. They develop relationships with victims and their families, provide them with resources, and do welfare checks. The unit's priorities are scams and fraud activities. Since the pandemic, there has been an influx of scam cases and fraud against Older Adults.

Scope Creation Process, Goals and Key Topics. Steve Wolter, Epley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University.

Trends

Preliminary research on order adult needs have found the following:

- Automation and technology reduce work and caregiving burdens.
- Studies show people who are active live longer. Providing services to people who are in need will help them continue to be healthy, live longer, and have more productive lives. The workforce is changing with people working longer. Organizations have to take a broader look at talent.
- Healthy trends for Older Adults – Factors include activity level, disabilities, race and income.
- Focus on changing how public policy is made.
- Looking at research summaries, community approaches, stakeholder interviews, are all being used to prepare the scope of work.



- Initial information gathering will include reviewing needs assessments from Colorado Springs, CO, Fremont, CA, Washington DC, and Cleveland, OH.
- Interview Questions - Inquiry areas will include outdoor spaces, transportation, housing, social participation, community health and support, social inclusion, civic participation, and communication.
- Stakeholders involved: Commissions, departments, health care, non-profit and social agencies.

Project Objectives

The overall project goal is to develop an understanding of the Commission's expectations for an Older Adult Needs Assessment and design an RFP with that information that ensures the City and Commission obtain accurate information representative of the needs of the community; essential resources already available within the organization; essential resources to be acquired; and determine how to use, develop, and obtain these resources.

REMARKS, DISCUSSION, Q&A:

- *Angela Lawson*, voiced concerns about using technology of cellphone apps with the aging population due to lack of access to service and exposure to scams. She pointed out that no specific mention was made about the need for adult day programs, which are important for caregivers, Older Adults with special needs, and people with disabilities.
- *Sandy* asked when the stakeholders interview list will be needed to submit to Eppley. *Michelle* stated the interviews needed to be completed before the October 31st workshop.
- *Brooke* remarked the Needs Assessment will identify gaps in recreational services associated with Older Adults and gaps in transportation, the ability to manage technological shifts that have occurred in the last 10-20 years and how those gaps are being addressed.
- *Jeannie* asked what areas of the transportation master plan are being considered two or three years after it was developed. *Daniel* responded the housing strategy sets out the city's overall policies for addressing housing. He stated AARP is a great resource for housing and mobility. Jeannie followed up stating AARP has national programs including Livable Communities and asked if Aurora is considering becoming a Livable Community. Daniel stated they are not considering this program at present. Daniel responded to questions regarding housing and said most new development is private. Developers are asked to consider various housing needs to integrate into their developments.
- *Jeannie* asked how Eppley staff is looking at the attributes of different cities' Needs Assessments compared to Aurora. *Steve* replied the other cities have robust parks, recreation and outdoor open spaces and an emerging aging population.
- *Jeannie* asked for more clarity from staff regarding their presentations. *Brooke* replied she will follow up.
- *Ronald* Informed everyone that although AARP and DRCOG are great organizations, he and his staff, ACAA patrons, the ACAA Advisory Committee and the ACFOA have firsthand knowledge



regarding the needs and issues of Older Adults in Aurora. He gave examples of programs already in existence at his facility addressing these issues.

- *Barbara* remarked on the affordability of housing at Heather Gardens. It is becoming upper middle-class that most cannot afford.
- *Sandy* asked why the presenters were not able to identify the gaps and was concerned how educated they were to identify these gaps. There is a need for a more sophisticated and comprehensive transportation system and more resources are needed to address transportation gaps. *Michelle* responded that what Daniel presented was the citywide comprehensive plan, which governs every area within the city. The city departments then look at those aspirational goals. The Needs Assessment will provide specific goals for the city regarding Older Adults. This will dictate future strategic plans and actions.

TOPICS TO CONSIDER FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Stakeholders list
- Department presentations

NEXT MEETING

Date: October 31, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Aurora Center for Active Adults and virtually through WebEx.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.

Jeannie Davis, Chairperson
Aurora Commission for Older Adults

Date _____

Elvia Tovar,
Administrative Specialist and Secretary

Date _____

ADOPTED _____