

Greater Richmond Age Wave Coalition Neighborhood Livability Action Team June 23, 2017 @ 1:00pm-2:45pm

Richmond Regional Planning District Commission
9211 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond, VA 23230
Facilitator: Ken Lantz

Neighborhood Livability Action Team

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Notes: Karen Moeller

Objective: Increase opportunities for affordable housing and home modification services for older adults, increase mobility and transportation infrastructure in order to decrease isolation of older adults and persons with disabilities, improve physical infrastructure including accessibility to housing and public transportation, promote public safety and make disaster planning widely accessible. The Greater Richmond Age Wave Plan

The Meeting

Ken Lantz welcomed attendees and introduced presenters Natalie Snider of AARP, and Jane King of AARP and JustPartners, Inc. The notes from the April 5 meeting were distributed and approved.

Ken provided a recap of the Senior Connections Transportation Forum held April 25 at the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center. Discussion took place on the topics of volunteer driver programs, public transportation services, and Senior Connections serving as the region's transportation coordination entity. Trish Fitzpatrick of UZURV outlined how they plan to operate as a broker of transportation services for GRTC CARE customers. At the Forum, it was announced that Senior Connections will be holding town hall meetings on its area plan, with an emphasis on transportation issues. This week, Senior Connections is conducting public sessions in Richmond, Ashland, and Henrico. Amy Marschean explained that Area Agencies on Aging define 4 year strategic plans and hold annual meetings. People who receive services have the opportunity to submit their input. At the Senior Connections Transportation Forum, Hanover County's Deputy County Manager Jim Taylor remarked that area counties have worked together on the enhanced 9-1-1 system, so this shows that they can work together cooperatively. Sid del Cardayre of Van Go provided insight on timing of ride requests. He noted that peak hours for transportation serve are 7-9am and 4-6pm, and riders are encouraged to schedule trips outside of those time periods. Another challenge is that persons often require transportation across jurisdictional lines, and many transportation systems are siloed.

The May 10 Aging2.0 Transportation Innovation Forum showcased a broad array of current and proposed services. The question was asked: why are 7.5 million ride requests going unmet in the Richmond region each year? Speakers and topics included: Ken Lantz, Charlie Rasnick from Hanover Senior Rides, GRTC planning updates, Marshall Contino, Director of the Center for Vehicle Safety, Altarum. The Forum concluded with an Innovation Panel featuring speakers from UZURV, RoundTrip, and Perrone Robotics.

Jane King and Natalie Snider distributed materials, including Where We Live Books, with ideas on making communities accessible for all. They had just conducted training on their Age Friendly Communities Program in Roanoke. They bring together stakeholders and outline the necessary steps preceding planning. In yesterday's Roanoke workshop, they conducted trainings using 3-4 steps. The group is tasked with outlining projects they can plan and complete over the first 60 days in order to get a "quick win". Each community must identify a strong leader, which is important in negotiating regulatory issues. Rural areas and cities have different needs. In each breakout session, each person adopts a profession different from their own and examine: transportation, access to wellness programs, their willingness to collaborate or let go, community needs and resources, and the importance of volunteer work. Gordon Walker was the workshop leader. Jane referred to Alexandria's plan which expires this year. They are part of a network of AARP Age Friendly Communities, which this year will add Arlington, Virginia Beach, and Hanover.

The Viable Future Toolkit, used in the workshops, emphasizes collaboration, respect for diversity, and intergenerational opportunities. The network of Age Friendly Communities is supported by AARP and the World Health Organization. There are 8 domains of concentration – Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect & Social Inclusion, Civic Participation & Employment, Communication & Information, and Community & Health Services -- Communities do not have to address all 8. They can select some and even add to those existing. For example, Washington, D.C. has added Emergency Services and Financial Exploitation/Elder Abuse to their focus.

Groups have found that in general, people are unaware of available resources in their communities. They wait for a crisis to occur before researching and reaching out. In the Toolkit, participants have found that one intervention can trigger others. Jane recognized the tension between "old" and "young" in term of government funding. It is essential for government representatives to be in agreement to follow their community's plan, once established. Each application lists resources already in place.

There are no set parameters for outcomes. Amy suggested a dashboard for following progress among the 8 domains. There are 173 communities enrolled, among 39 states, and all are listed on the AARP website. Natalie works with volunteers in the communities in organizing advocacy efforts in order to influence mayors and other officials to take on projects.

The Livability Index tool is available on the AARP website. Users can input any community and discover its livability score by category. Hanover's lowest score is in transportation, and Richmond's is in opportunity. Catherine MacDonald suggested comparing the Age Wave's Community Assessment Tool with AARP's Livability Index. She and Jane will connect at a later time to discuss.

Key to the success of implementing agreed upon changes to each community is establishing relationships with local government, and this takes time. Funding can be contingent on city/county councils and grants. The City of Alexandria has made their Ambassador Program a top priority. They offer services primarily to women living alone and diverse populations. Volunteers are trained on available services and then go out into the community. Approximately 27% of the current U.S. population was not born in the U.S., and more than 100 languages are spoken. Jane and Natalie concluded their presentation and distributed materials.

Catherine provided updates on two pending grant opportunities and asked for input by June 30 for the abstract, and by July 12 for the Challenge.

Ken described a new program coordinated by UZURV for GRTC Care and others that provides same day rides. Customers get vouchers (in lieu of taxi vouchers) and this is funded through GRTC. Consumers pay a higher fare, and this service is limited to GRTC service areas.

Next Meetings & Events

Wednesday, August 2, 1pm – 2:30pm

Neighborhood Livability Team Meeting

Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, 9211 Forest Hill Ave. Richmond, VA

Age Wave Leadership Meeting

Friday, September 29, 9am -10:30am

Genworth Financial, Bldg 4, 6th Floor, Room 5

6620 W. Broad St, Richmond, VA

ATTENDEES

Name	Organization Affiliation
Ken Lantz	Richmond Regional Planning District Commission
Thelma Bland Watson	Senior Connections
Rachel Andricosky	Student, VCU Department of Gerontology
Tom Nash	Student
Amy Marschean	Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Maria Holperin Terrell	Community Volunteer
Molly MacBean	VCU Gerontology student and VanGo
Catherine MacDonald	Greater Richmond Age Wave Coalition
Karen Moeller	Greater Richmond Age Wave Coalition
Jane King	JustPartners, Inc.
Natalie Snider	AARP