



## Greater Richmond Age Wave Coalition

### Neighborhood Livability/Gerotrifecta Work Group

November 8, 2016 @ 10:00am – 11:15am

Retail Merchants Association, 5101 Monument Ave., Richmond, VA 23230

### Neighborhood Livability/GeroTrifecta Work Group

**Facilitator:** Karen Moeller, Greater Richmond Age Wave Coalition

**Notes:** Sara Morris, Greater Richmond Age Wave Coalition

**Objective:** The Neighborhood Livability work group will focus on promoting and advocating for adequate transportation resources to meet the needs of our residents. The GeroTrifecta is a university and community partnership which utilizes students and alumni to perform community canvassing (via walkability audits), conduct pre-emptive interventions in care and engagement and build on existing initiatives.

### The Meeting

This work group last met in March of 2015. In order to restart the work group, we began by reflecting on the goals of the work group as outlined in the original Age Wave Plan.

The [Livable Communities](#) page of the Original Plan outlines the goals of the work group in the categories of:

1. Affordable Housing and Home Modification
2. Mobility and Transportation
3. Physical Infrastructure
4. Public Safety and Disaster Planning

Most of the work for these categories have been addressed by [Neighborhood Livability Assessments](#) that have been done by VCU Gerontology students. Students participated in canvassing three neighborhoods in the Richmond area (Union Hill, Woodlake and Willow Lawn). These neighborhoods were chosen based on their variations. To recap, the “Trifecta” portion of the work group title is for Older Adult Community Members, Students and Community Partners to canvass the neighborhood together. Since every neighborhood is unique it is not realistic to have a consistent plan of neighborhood livability; this will vary based on the view of the three individuals canvassing. In addition to the canvassing, students also suggested revisions to the Neighborhood Livability Assessment Tool. Work Group members also weighed in on some changes, such as adding a portion related to culture, race and uniting neighborhoods. It was also mentioned that we need to be sure to engage community members and leaders in order to implement the changes as suggested by the assessment.

### Moving Forward: Dr. E. Ayn Welleford

When Karen Moeller took on the role of Director of Age Wave, one of the first things she did was call for an Age Wave Retreat. During the Retreat we reviewed some of the work groups and the projects. We wanted to be sure that we are grounded in community identified need and how we can properly approach these projects. Whether through partnerships or creation of new initiatives. In addition, we have taken on social isolation as a major theme throughout our work over the past year or so. Therefore, this leads us to how the Neighborhood Livability/ GeroTrifecta work group can address: safety, livability and engagement. Over the last year or so Age Wave has been working with VCU’s Center for Urban and Regional Analysis which has been identifying “hot spots” for social isolation, thus guiding our future Neighborhood Livability Assessments.

In addition, to all the great work in the realm of Neighborhood Livability, we will also be exploring a legislative platform for the work group. Currently, we have not chatted with any legislators or explored too deep into the issues.

### **Social Isolation**

Gigi Amateau of United Way was going to speak about the work surrounding social isolation, but unfortunately she was unable to attend. Dr. Welleford gave the group a synopsis based on Gigi's presentation. This work began with the Come Together Symposium that took place in August of 2015. Since then the group has been working to create a risk index for social isolation, create operationalized definitions, identify hot spots and identify areas of need. Lynn Ivey mentioned speaking with the Aging and Disability Advisory Group that the City of Richmond has in order to identify and perhaps address the hot spots within the City.

In addition to identifying and canvassing those "hot spot" neighborhoods, Lynn suggested that the group can explore opportunities for funding implementation of the changes to the neighborhoods. Robins Foundation has The Lora M. and E. Claiborne Robins, Sr. Community Innovation Grant (CIG). Projects will address unmet community needs in our emerging neighborhoods and demonstrate an innovative approach to solving those needs, a record of strong leadership, and strategic collaboration with other community groups and interested parties.

### **Potential Legislative Platform**

Sara Morris created a list of bills that have been proposed for the 2017 General Assembly session. In addition, Chesterfield County hosted a Legislative Forum last week (November 2, 2016) which featured 4 panel members with lobbying experience. Dave DeBiasi from AARP explained that they will be lobbying for [HB1035](#). This bill would establish elderly care savings trust accounts to facilitate the savings of private funds to defray potential health and medical expenses that can occur with older age. This would be similar to the Virginia College Savings 529 Plan. Another panel member was Lee Biedrycki of Virginia Senior Services. VSS will be lobbying for [SB 696](#) which would provide supplemental Medicare policies for individuals under the age of 65 and [SB 487](#) which would require prescription drug manufacturers to make available the price of the drug.

Next steps in exploring the legislative platform would be to reach out to other organizations to see what bills they will be following in the 2017 session. We will then compile a list of bills and ask members to contribute information on their bill.

As we move forward we will review the completed Neighborhood Livability Assessments and be ready to perform additional assessments as needed. Molly MacBean and Maria Holperin volunteered to review these assessments and collaborate on future work.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- ✓ Attend the Leadership Committee meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Student representatives will report on advocacy opportunities
- ✓ Explore other organization's legislative platforms
- ✓ Explore Robins Foundation Grant Requirements



**NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> @ 10am**  
**Retail Merchants Association, 5101 Monument Ave.**

**ATTENDEES**

Name	Organization Affiliation
Eve Anderson	VCU Gerontology Student
Lisette Carbajal	Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Maria Holperin	Community Volunteer
Lynn Ivey	HomeKeepers
Molly MacBean	VCU Gerontology Student and VanGo
Karen Moeller	Greater Richmond Age Wave Coalition
Sara Morris	Greater Richmond Age Wave Coalition & CATCH Healthy Habits
Maya OpDeBeke	VCU Gerontology Student
Annie Rhodes	VCU Gerontology Student
Dr. E. Ayn Welleford	VCU Gerontology