

Age-Friendly Hyattsville Work Group Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 26, 2021; 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Zoom Webinar)

Work Group Attendees: Rosezella Canty-Letsome (W-1); Enda Little (W-4); Sherri McGee (W-2); Sally Middlebrooks (W-2); Saralyn Trainor (W-3); Lisa Walker (W-2); Winifred Weaver (W-1)

Guests: Suzanne van Nuys

Staff Attendees: Colleen Aistis, Community Services Manager; Marci LeFevre, Age-Friendly Program Lead

Welcome and Introductions

Marci LeFevre welcomed Suzanne van Nuys, Hyattsville resident and Program Director of Lifelong Learning at Prince George's Community College (PGCC). Suzanne leads PGCC's Seasoned Adults Growing Educationally (SAGE) program. Suzanne will share an overview of the SAGE program at the March or April Age-Friendly Work Group meeting.

2021 City Election

The upcoming 2021 City of Hyattsville Election will be a Vote-by-Mail (VBM) election. Cindy Zork, City of Hyattsville Communications Manager, provided an overview of the City's VBM process. Cindy noted that many municipalities have used the VBM model, prior to COVID-19, with great success.

Highlights of the 2021 City's VBM election process and key deadlines discussed include:

- 2021 City Election will select a Mayor and Council members from each of the City's five wards.
- March 19, 2021: Deadline for registered voters to provide an alternative mailing address. All registered voters will automatically receive a ballot.
- April 1, 2021: Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters.
- April 12, 2021: Deadline to register to vote using the State voter registration form.
- May 11, 2021: Election Day. A polling center for all eligible residents will be open at the City Municipal Building. Same Day Voter Registration will also be processed at this location. Voters must return ballots at this location by 8:00 p.m.

Cindy noted that a 2021 City Elections Candidate Forum is tentatively planned to be held on April 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The forum is to be convened by *Hyattsville Life and Times*. Additional information about the 2021 City Election is available on the [City's website](#) or www.hyattsville.org/vote.

COVID-19 Vaccination Outreach Efforts

The County's COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Hotline recently opened. Older adults and other community members (Phases 1B and 1C) who wish to receive the COVID-19 vaccine but have difficulty accessing the Internet or utilizing technology should use the 311# registration hotline. In addition, the following items were discussed:

- The City is promoting the County's registration hotline and available transportation options in the area through several communications channels. More information about the County's COVID-19 vaccine registration site is available at www.mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine.
- Colleen Aistis shared that the City will soon have a COVID-19 vaccination site, in addition to the COVID-19 testing site which opened last year. Like the COVID-19 testing site, the vaccination site will be a partnership between the City, Luminis Heath, the Prince George's County Health Department, and First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville.

- Reggie Bagley, the City's Emergency Operations Manager, will share at a later date additional details about the vaccination site and its opening timeframe. The City will promote the availability of the COVID-19 vaccination site once its opening date has been confirmed.

Age-Friendly Action Plan

Among the ten (10) Age-Friendly Action Plan items prioritized for FY21 at the January 2021 Work Group meeting, Work Group members identified top priorities (Tier 1) to be addressed by the group collectively this year. Selected Tier 1 Action Plan Priorities (FY21/FY22), highlighted in blue, green and yellow in the list below, were discussed.

- Affordable and accessible housing (Action Plan Goal 1) topped the list of Tier 1 Priorities.
- Goals 3, 4 and 7 received an equal number of votes among Work Group members as the second level of Tier 1 Priorities.
- Goals 2, 5, 9 and 12 received an equal number of votes among Work Group members as the third level of Tier 1 Priorities.

Goal 1: Expand Range of Options for Affordable and Accessible Housing

- ✓ 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.3: Determine interest in home-sharing; research what other communities have done to facilitate this; pending interest create an action plan.
- ✓ Increase action on affordable and accessible housing, including cohousing alternatives, accessory dwelling units, and reporting on findings from City's consultants.

Goal 3: Expand Assistance for Home and Yard Repair

- ✓ 3.1.3: Seek grants to supplement support for home maintenance programs and free or discounted services.
- ✓ Explore AARP Foundation Home Maintenance Resource Tool.

Goal 4: Enhance the Safety of Older Residents in Their Homes and the Community

- ✓ Communicate emergency preparedness and safety tips for seniors in Hyattsville Reporter and other communications.
- ✓ Roll out Emergency Assistance Voluntary Registry program.

Goal 7: Expand Options for Affordable, In-Home Care Services

- ✓ Research and increase access to in-home personal care and in-home services.

Goal 2: Help Seniors Make Their Homes More Age-Friendly and Safe

- ✓ 2.1.1: Publicize loan and grant programs for home modifications; offer home modification workshop.
- ✓ Identify home modification services/programs to help seniors remain at home.

Goal 5: Expand and Promote Opportunities to Enhance Well-Being and Health

- ✓ 5.1.2: Encourage growth of City's farmer's market.
- ✓ 5.2.2: Co-sponsor monthly Memory Cafes
- ✓ 5.2.5: Partner with local wellness/fitness business to implement regular activities — outdoors and eventually indoors.
- ✓ Offer opportunities to enhance mental health.

Goal 9: Reduce Social Isolation and Build Community Across Ages

- ✓ Address social isolation.

Goal 12: Expand Outreach and Communication to Diverse Communities

- ✓ 12.1: Explore availability and accessibility of services to diverse populations; include LGBTQ population as part of outreach.

Affordable and Accessible Housing

Work Group members discussed affordable housing options (e.g., home sharing, accessory dwelling units) of interest to community members and other City Action Plan components for Goal 1. To learn about the City's affordable housing strategy work to date and identify areas where it would make sense for the Work Group to focus its efforts this year, Jim Chandler, Director of Community and Economic Development (CED), will be invited to attend the March or April Age-Friendly Work Group meeting. Marci will reach out to Jim.

Key Updates

Senior Community Needs Survey

The Senior Community Needs Survey, fielded in early January, officially ended on February 12. To date, the City has received over 125 responses, of which seventy-eight (78) surveys were completed online on the City's website.

The City continues to receive completed surveys via mail. Due to issues with the postal delivery service, all surveys returned at a later date will be accepted. It is anticipated that all received surveys will have been reviewed and findings summarized by the end of next month (March). A process for following up with respondents who requested information and assistance will be initiated by Community Services staff.

AARP Community Challenge Grant

The AARP Community Challenge Grant 2021 was recently announced and presents an opportunity to seek funding for a project the Work group might wish to initiate this year that aligns with selected Action Plan priorities.

Work Group members will review the grant information and previous grantees. A list of all grantees (including those in MD) can be viewed at www.aarp.org/CommunityChallenge. It's interesting to see the variety of projects funded. Project ideas will be discussed at the March 26 Age-Friendly Work group meeting.

Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP)

Lisa Walker shared that Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP) will be partnering with Helping Hands University Park, Neighbors Helping Neighbors College Park, and Explorations on Aging College Park to offer a virtual program series for community members residing along the Route 1 Corridor. The monthly *Corridor Conversations* programs will spotlight local experts. Additional information is available at HAP's website or www.hyattsvilleaginginplace.org.

Upcoming Events

Age-Friendly Work Group Meeting Dates

- March 26, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
- April 23, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.