

Age-Friendly Hyattsville Work Group Meeting

Friday, March 26, 2021; 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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; Interim Mayor Kevin Ward

Staff Attendees: Colleen Aistis, Community Services Manager; Reggie Bagley, Emergency Operations Manager; Beryl Jonson, Senior and Disabilities Services Coordinator; Marci LeFevre, Age-Friendly Program Lead

Welcome and Introductions

City Administrator Tracey Douglas kicked off the meeting by thanking Work Group members for their service and contributions to developing and help with shepherding implementation of the City's Age-Friendly Action Plan. She then introduced Interim Mayor Kevin Ward, who attended the meeting to learn more about the Work Group's priorities and thank members for their service.

COVID-19 Vaccination Site

Reggie Bagley, the City's Emergency Operations Manager, provided an update on the opening of Hyattsville's COVID-19 vaccination site at First United Methodist Church, which is also a site to receive COVID-19 tests. Individuals (City and County residents) eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine can register for appointments through Luminis Health's scheduling portal, which will be promoted through City communications. Reggie noted that walk-ups will not be accepted; appointments must be made in order to receive the vaccine.

Suggestions for expanding outreach to community members about the new vaccination site and registration process were discussed. Interim Mayor Ward advised that the following action steps be taken to enhance outreach to community members in targeted vaccination groups:

- Publicize LUMINIS registration phone number (website currently provided in outreach materials)
- Prioritize and reserve a select number of appointments for City residents
- Feature vaccination outreach information more prominently on the City's website

Marci LeFevre, the City's Age-Friendly Program Lead, will follow-up with Reggie and the City's Communications Team about the vaccination outreach communications requests. Reggie will reach out to Luminis Health about setting aside a set number of registration slots for City residents in targeted vaccination groups who may have experienced difficulty with scheduling appointments.

Seasoned Adults Growing Educationally (SAGE)

Marci welcomed Suzanne van Nuys, Hyattsville resident and Program Director of Lifelong Learning at Prince George's Community College (PGCC). Suzanne, who leads PGCC's Seasoned Adults Growing Educationally (SAGE) program, provided an overview of programs and courses offered to older adults to enrich their knowledge, skills and talents. Information about all programs offered for older adults is available on the [PGCC website](#).

- Workforce Development and Continuing Education Courses offer residents of all ages the opportunity to learn new skills in a wide variety of subject areas (e.g., Adult Education, Aquatics, Art, Business and Management Skills, Computers and Information Technology, English for Speakers for Other Languages, Health and Wellness, Languages and Communications).

- Some PGCC Continuing Education Courses are designed to meet educational requirements for professional certification or licensure.
- A full list of Spring 2021 Continuing Education Courses is available at www.pgcc.edu.
- Seasoned Adults Growing Educationally (SAGE) is a tuition-free program for older adults, age 60 and older, who wish to enroll in PGCC courses providing instruction in popular subjects such as Art, Computers, Financial Issues, Healthy Living, Languages and Music.
 - The courses are offered at multiple locations throughout the County.
 - Participants pay an \$85.00 registration fee each trimester and are able to take unlimited SAGE classes. The registration fee does not include lab, computer, and supplies fees.
 - A full list of SAGE courses is available at www.pgcc.edu/sage.
- Academic Credit Courses are available to residents age 60 and older at no cost. However, a one-time application fee of \$25.00 and a registration fee of \$25.00 per semester is required. The registration fee does not include lab, computer, and supplies fees.

Suzanne shared that participation in SAGE classes spiked following COVID-19 stay-at-home orders and suspension of in-person gatherings. She noted that 93% of all COVID-19 related deaths in Prince George's County fell within the SAGE age group (adults 60 and older). The appeal and safety of online classes, and the desire for social connectivity with others, are factors that have contributed to higher enrollment rates in SAGE classes and other PGCC courses.

Interim Mayor Ward and Work Group members suggested that the City promote the availability of the PGCC SAGE program to residents. Marci will follow up with Suzanne and the City's Communications Team. In addition, Suzanne noted that multigenerational programming is of great interest to PGCC. City Administrator Douglas shared that the City's renovated Teen Center will be a multigenerational center that could present partnership opportunities (e.g., students teaching computer skills to older adults) to be explored with PGCC in the future. Suzanne noted that she and PGCC would welcome the opportunity.

AARP Community Challenge Grant

Project ideas for the AARP Community Challenge Grant were briefly discussed. Work Group members suggested the following project concepts for consideration:

- Shared housing research
- Community in-home nursing pilot
- Home cleaning pilot
- Zoom pals project (expand new HAP initiative, possibly by collaborating with the City)

As the AARP Community Challenge Grant does not accept applications for research-based projects or pilot programs, the suggested project ideas will be deferred and considered for other possible funding opportunities, which Hyattsville Aging In Place (HAP) is currently exploring. HAP received a grant this year from the Greater Washington Community Foundation to pilot a Zoom Pals project that matches older adults with high school students to learn basic computer skills.

Marci noted that City staff will be meeting to discuss two project concepts suggested by the Department of Public Works and Communications Team. The project topics include:

- creating an accessible community garden at Heurich Park
- developing a Mobile Civic Engagement Toolbox (application project concept submitted in 2020)

Work Group members expressed great interest in an accessible community garden. Lisa Walker, Board Chair of Hyattsville Aging In Place (HAP), noted that residents at Friendship Arms and members of HAP are interested in raised garden beds and accessible places to grow food. Winifred Weaver noted that the pandemic has underscored the regional need to address food insecurity and increase access to local fresh food sources. It was also noted that accessible community gardens would be beneficial to community members of all ages.

An update on submitted application project(s) will be provided at next month's meeting. The application deadline is April 14, 2021.

Key Updates

Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit, May 4 and 5, 2021

Age-Friendly D.C. is convening an Age-Friendly Regional Ecosystem Summit in conjunction with The George Washington University on May 4 and 5, 2021. Marci shared that the City has been invited to present at the summit on its affordable housing strategy and emergency assistance voluntary registry. More details about the Summit will be shared at the April Age-Friendly Work Group meeting, including finalized presentation topics to be given by the City and participant registration information.

Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP)

Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP) and Helping Hands University Park, Neighbors Helping Neighbors College Park, and Explorations on Aging College Park launched a virtual program series for community members residing along the Route 1 Corridor. The monthly **Corridor Conversations** cover a variety of topics such as Shakespeare, common birds and their native foods, and art and its connection to health and wellness. Information about the series is available at www.hyattsvilleaginginplace.org.

Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program Grant

The agreement for the Enhanced Mobility project grant awarded to the City by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will go before Council as an item of consent at the upcoming April 5 City Council meeting. Once signed by City and Council of Governments (COG) officials, the agreement will be considered fully executed and the two-year project will be underway.

Senior Community Needs Survey

Responses from the Senior Community Needs Survey are being reviewed and categorized by issue area (e.g., transportation, food security, housing). The City has received over 300 completed surveys to date. Findings from the survey and a process for following up with residents requesting information and assistance will be reviewed and discussed by City staff. Survey findings will be shared and discussed with the Work Group at a future meeting.

Upcoming Events

Age-Friendly Work Group Meeting Dates

- May 28, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
- June 25, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

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